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African Violet

M A G A Z I N E

SEPTEMBER 1957

VOLUME 11 NUMBER 1



SUPPLIES FOR AFRICAN VIOLET GROWING

"Pest Control Chart and African Violet Troubles Diagnosis Guide"

28-page booklet, by Neil C. Miller. The result of eight years' experience in handling insecticides for African Violets and answering thousands of letters seeking help or information on African Violet problems.

This booklet follows the middle ground in discussing pests and pest control. It stays away from the Polyanna approach which is so common (and so vexing) in much material that has been printed. Likewise, it doesn't picture pests or pest problems as the dread-uglies of the insecticide ads and scare writings. Rather, it treats insect infestation as just one of questions that must be handled properly in order to derive the greatest satisfaction or profit from your African Violet growing.

Contents are: 1. A 6-page Pest Control Chart containing description of all the major pests of African Violets and the damage they do, 2. A 4-page section of Notes on Pest Control on African Violets, 3. A 12-page African Violet Troubles Diagnosis Guide, 4. Instructions on how to make simple tests to determine whether any of the major pests (mites, symphylids, nematodes) are present, 5. A discussion of "Where Do the Pests Come From," 6. A section on "Pitfalls in Treating African Violet Troubles."

It thus gives information on avoiding pest troubles and recognizing them if they do appear, and instructions on what to do if pests do attack. While it was originally written from the "what to do" angle many readers are finding that the information on avoiding pest troubles and recognizing them is of greater interest and value than the remedial portions.

Single Copies One Dollar, 2-10 copies 90¢ apiece, 11-25 copies 80¢ apiece, Over 25 copies 60¢ apiece.

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NEIL C. MILLER

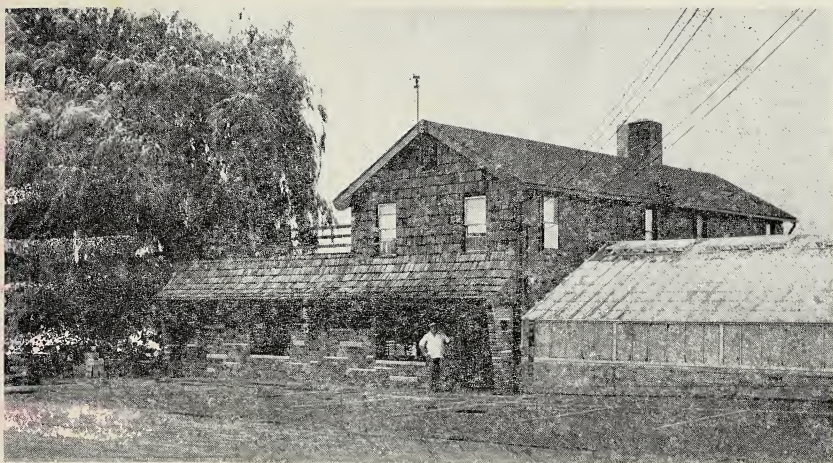
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Front Cover: Plants from the collection of Lucile Kile.

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VIOLET TREASURE HOUSE

SPRINGDALE, ARKANSAS

PINK WAVERLY — by Clarissa Harris. Lovely frilled single pink on waving foliage; makes handsome Show plant; fast grower, heavy bloomer. L .50; LS 1.25; P 1.00, 1.50

T-V PINK RAJAH — want something completely "different" in a single pink? Then this for you! Deeper eye; top two petals frilled; lovely! L .75; Young LS 1.25; P 2.00

T-V PLAYBOY — topnotch single pink, not frilled. A real honey. L .50; LS 1.00; P 1.00, 1.50

T-V SMOOTHIE — big smooth single pink; fast, heavy bloomer. L .50; LS 1.00; P 1.00, 1.50

T-V FLIRTY EYES — single frill, rosy-lav., fluted lt. green fol. L .75; LS 1.00; P 1.00, 1.50

T-V SEVEN VEILS — single frilled purple, deeper purple swath across petal. Only Cut Leaf 1.00

T-V SHADOWED CROSS — frilled single purple; dark waxen waving foliage. Only Cut Leaf 1.00

T-V VALLINPINK — gorgeous deep pink single, chartreuse edging. L .50; LS 1.25; P 1.00, 1.50

T-V PINK MARGARET — deeper pink eye; easy fast grower; prolific. L .50; LS 1.00; P 1.00, 1.50

T-V SCANDAL — frilled single dark blue, white edged; waving fol. L .50; LS 1.00; P 1.00, 1.50

T-V TEA TIME — frilled single mulberry; semi-heavy waving fol. L .50; LS 1.00; P 1.00, 1.50

PURPLE RAJAH — by Col. Bert S. Rosenbaum, Air Force, now growing violets in Africa. Nice double purple; big handsome plant; a Show variety. L .75; no LS; few SP 2.00

DRESDEN DREAM — frilled pink single; blackish waving foliage. L .75; no LS; few SP 1.50

NAVY BOUQUET AMAZON — huge dbl. dark blue; heavy bloomer, super! L .50; LS 1.00; P 1.00, 1.50

CLARISSA HARRIS (Vallin) — L .75; no LS; P 1.50 * SMOKE RINGS (Vallin) — L .50; LS 1.25; P 1.00

FRINGED POM POM (Vallin) — L .75; LS 1.25; P 2.00 * TEXAS FRINGE (Vallin) — L .50; no LS; P 1.00

* * *

VARIETIES listed below NOT MARKED are L .40; LS .60; Plants .60, .75 and \$1.00.

Varieties marked (*) are L .50; LS .75; Plants .75, \$1.00 and \$1.50.

Varieties marked by dash (-) no leaf settings at all; L .50; Plants .75 and \$1.00.

Varieties marked by x means nothing at all offered but FRESH CUT LEAVES, \$1.00 per Leaf.

DEFINITIONS: L cut leaf; LS leaf setting of plantlets; SP small plant; P young plant.

VIOLET TREASURE HOUSE, many brand new never before released:

-African Guardsman — fr. prp.	-Giant Killer — huge dbl. pink	*Pink Figurine — fine pink girl
*Barkers BERNICE AMAZON — L	Irish — dbl. lt. g. girl	*Pink Tally-Ho — double pink
*Beau Brummel — huge dbl. bi	*King Richard — huge dbl. red bi	*Pink Vendetta — dbl. pink girl
-Betty Bop — lovely pk. girl	-Lavender Bigwig — huge dbl. lav.	xPink Caroletta — huge pk. girl
-Blue Bonnet Sue — blue edged	-Lavender Beauty Supreme	Pink Bowl — cupped dark leaf
-Bridalwreath Amazon — new	-Lavender Sachet — dbl. lav. girl	*Rose Sparkle — white, rose/m.
*Cup of Claret — huge red	Mamselle — double pink girl	*Sabre Dance — Sir Lancel. Sup.
*College Girl — huge single	-Old South — new dbl. lavender	*Seafroth — new miniature dbl.
*Dbl. One Amazon — big blue	-Oriental Amazon — unusual fol.	*Sea Nymph — new miniature s.
*Falstaff — best double red	*Pink Babysbreath — lovely bi	*Swank — offered by request
*Fantasy Trail — desirable	Piccadilly — double pink girl	*Violet Dogwood Supreme

* * *

T-V Beaumont Beauty; T-V Bubbles; T-V Bunnyhop; T-V Chaperone; T-V Cut Velvet; T-V Handsome; T-V Impudence; T-V Jazz; T-V Jealousy; T-V Mumbo; T-V Patio Dance; T-V Pert; T-V Rose Frills; T-V Rose Prom; T-V Rosefroth; T-V Rosy Snowstorm; T-V Summer Cloud; T-V Spring Fire; T-V Summer Dream; T-V Stag Line; T-V Stagestruck; T-V Swirling Petticoats; T-V Tuxedo.

* * *

BUD BREWER — Pink Cupid; *Pink Petticoats; *Pink Waltz; *Strike Me Pink.

FISCHER — *Brussels Sprouts; *Confederate Beauty; *Pink Cloud Amazon; *Pink Miracle. SP \$1.00

GRANGERS — *Angel Lace; Black Magic; *Blue Nocturne; *Blue Waxwing; Cavalier; *Drops O'Wine; *Edith Cavell; *High Noon; *Indiscreet; *Laura; *Lorna Doone; *Madonna; *Madonna Amazon; *Mary Thompson; *Pink Caress; *Rainbows End; *Rosalinde; Royal Bouquet; Ruffled Heiress; Sea Sprite; Spooned Wine Dbl; *Thunderhead; *Twinkle Toes; *White Orchid; White Puff.

HASENYAGER — *Big Parade fr. dk blue gorgeous foliage; *Holly Halo fine lt. blue; Red Lark.

HINES — *Magic Nite; Ruffled Daydream; Sheer Delight; xSpun Sugar (pale lav. dbl.) L .75

LYONS — Amazon; *Camellia; Daisy Mae; *Dee Six; *Dbl. Blue Ice; *Dbl. Pk. Cheer; Evelyn Johnson; Fried Pink Rosette; Grand Champion; *Holiday; xHoliday Amazon L \$1.00; Long Dbl. Blue; Long Dbl. Red; Pink D. ly; Pink Melody; *Pink Mambo; *Star Blue; *Star Pink; Van Dilly.

MARY MEEDS — Air Waves; Dbl. Pink Boy; *Dbl. Pink Girl; Dbl. Pink Sister; Dbl. Portland Rose; *Frosted Madonna; Miss New York; Ohio Bountiful Amazon; Red Cap; Wiff; *Ruffled Bl.

NICHOLS — Boyce Edens; *Tennessee Debutante; *Tennessee Girl; *Tennessee Rose.

REICHERT — *Fluffy Blue fr. dbl. lt. blue and a good one; Double Peach Blossom a top seller.

RICHTER — *Caliph dbl red; *Colonial Pink; Grenadier; *Spindrift fine pk; *Valor big purple.

ROS'ONNA PETERS — Pink Lagoon; Pink Swan; Ros'Onna Burgundy a nice double dark red girl.

SCOTT — *Blue Rosette nice dbl. blue; *Great Lakes huge single med. blue; *Lilac Frills nice.

TEN HAGEN — Dbl. Blue Heiress; *Elizabeth the Queen; *Royal Velvet; Show Aristocrat; S. Cloud Show Day; *Show Glow; *Show Promise; *Show Sensation; *Show Sky; *Show Star SP \$1.00

TINARI — *Apricot mist; *Christina; *Dbl. Painted Girl; Dbl. Wine Velvet Girl; *Pink Rock; *June Bride fine frilled single white; *Sugar Babe; Wine Velvet still best red.

TONKADALE — *Chaska; Cydonia; Frivoletta; *Grace Pope; Mayfair fr. dbl. dk. blue; *Me'eore; *Miroc frilled dbl. red; *Newport; Nomey red-edged white; *Pink Camellia; *St. Louis

ULERY — Bernice; Blushing; *Blushing Amazon lovely; *Double Violet; *Giant Purple Monarch; *Geneva Beauty; Innocence; Lavender Lace; *Queen's Cushion; Snow Prince.

WILSON — *Cherry Pink; *Fairly Queen; *Freshman dbl. pk; *Glamour dbl. pk; *Goliath; *Hoosier; Lovely Lady; *Pink Garden new single pk; *Roseglow; *Will Hayes; *Wintery Rose.

CUT LEAF of the LL that took the Silver Bowl at National \$1.00; -AKRON GIRL; -ANNABELLE; Black Cherry dbl. (Omaha); xBlue Cotillion L \$1.00; Blue Lady; *Bonfire; *Bronzetta; *Dolly's Dream fine dbl. lt. blue; Dbl. Orchid Prince dbl. red; *DuPont Red; Floradora; *Harvey Indian Squaw; *Indianola Amazon; *Irresistible Girl; *Lady Elaine (Naomi) fine bicolor; *Midnight Lady dbl. purple; *Northern Fantasy; Pink Cheer; *Pink Coral Queen; Pink Daffy; Prima Donna; *Red Dogwood; *Red Edge White Boy; *Rose's Pippin frilled single purple; *Squoia (Pendleton) huge blue; *Silver Slippers red girl; *Snows of Kilimanjaro; *Sweet Memories (Behnke) pink double; *Tippy Toes bicolor girl.

MINIMUM ORDER SHIPPED \$5.00; ADD \$1.00 TO EACH ORDER to help on packing and postage costs.

FROM THE EDITORS MAIL

Grace Eyerdom of Granger Gardens wrote me a nice note from which I would like to quote, "In the list of 'The 100 Best' liked varieties the Guide listed Strike Me Pink as a Granger Gardens variety. This is not correct. It was originated by Bud Brewer, Wyandotte, Michigan, and I feel he should have credit for this beautiful plant. It is worthy of much credit, and we at Granger do not want this credit when it belongs to Bud Brewer. We purchased a very small start of it — not the sole rights — some time back and we have sold a lot of it. Therefore, it is easily understandable how the error could have been made."

Then a quotation from Edna Taylor of Tay-Bow African Violets, Caro, Michigan, that is helpful, "We are Mr. and Mrs. George Taylor (not John Taylor) as we were written up in the Commercial Show story in the June Magazine.

"Kimberly is a large plant with foliage which is blue black green, with ruffled edges and glossy . . . red under side. The bloom is a double of powder blue with soft white edges. The petals lie flat like a gardenia with a small cluster in the middle (again like a gardenia)."

OMISSION FROM JUDGES LIST

Please add the name of Mrs. H. W. Martin, 429 S. 41st Street, Omaha, Nebraska, to your list of Qualified Judges.

List of Donors of Door Prizes to the African Violet Society of America, Inc., at the Eleventh Annual Convention held at the Hotel Netherland Hilton, Cincinnati, Ohio, April 4, 5 and 6, 1957.

Mrs. Charles Haley, Covington, Kentucky

Aetna Insurance Company, Albers Supermarket, Cincinnati Convention Bureau, Cincinnati Gas and Electric Company, Cincinnati Telephone Company, Colony Restaurant, Mrs. Edward Erke, Mrs. Edward Lotz, The Kroger Company, Mrs. Vincent Newman, Merle Norman Studios, J. A. Peterson & Sons, Don Seta, Mrs. Ray Schaffner, Mrs. Ray Spencer, Song Shop, Van Atta Seed Company, Fred Veith, The Willenborg Company, Mullane Taffy Company, all of Cincinnati, Ohio, and Atlas Fertilizer Company, San Francisco, California; Bo-Shep Seal Company, Paramount, California; Black Magic, Hermosa Beach, California; Boyle-Midway, Inc., Cranford, New Jersey; W. H. Coddling Company, Copley, Ohio; Even Sales Company, Toledo, Ohio; Fischer's Greenhouses, Linwood, New Jersey; Granger Gardens, Medina, Ohio; Grayline Specialties, New York, New York; Hallmark Greeting

V-C 13 FOR NEMATODES

Edgar Harris, Burlington, New Jersey

We have found V-C 13 to be a very effective product and very easy to use. Simply mix one and one-half teaspoonfuls to a gallon of warm water (85°). Give each plant a good drink of it from the top, and it will not hurt the foliage if the V-C 13 solution gets on it. When putting it on our plants, we have had the leaves thoroughly wet and there is no burn.

Be sure and wet the medium under the pots thoroughly, in addition to each plant individually.

The kill will not be immediate, but it will last in the soil as an effective killer for at least two years and possibly longer.

The root knots will not disappear, but in about a week's time the animal inside the knot will be dead and new roots will start growing. The plant will live a healthy life and die of something else.

Since everybody's African violets have nematodes, everybody should use V-C 13. Personally I have used a dozen or more nematode cures, and V-C 13 is the only one I have found to be worth while.

THE END

Card Company, Kansas City, Missouri; Horticulture Magazine, Boston, Massachusetts; LeClercq Company, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Lyndon Lyon, Dolgeville, New York; Montgomery Coal Company, Covington, Kentucky; Mrs. Ray Markley, Richmond, Indiana; Mulford Greenhouses, Lebanon, Ohio; Mr. Neil Miller, Penns Grove, New Jersey; Plant Marvel Laboratories, Chicago, Illinois; Popular Gardening, New York, New York; Plant Tab Company, Baltimore, Maryland; Richard's Violet House, Williamsville, New York; Rudy's Flower Shoppe, South Fort Mitchell, Kentucky; Standard Equipment Company, Bel-Air, Maryland; Smith Potting Soil Company, Tulsa, Oklahoma; Stim-U-Plant, Columbus, Ohio; Select Violet House, Youngstown, Ohio; Smith Agriculture Company, Columbus, Ohio; Sponge-Rok Sales, Middleton, Wisconsin; R. H. Shumway, Rockford, Illinois; Tinari Greenhouses, Bethayres, Pennsylvania; Terri-Lite Dealers, Wilders, Kentucky; Toni Company, Chicago, Illinois; Tyoga Products Company, Elkland, Pennsylvania; Union Products, Leominster, Massachusetts; Wallace Mineral Corporation, Denver, Colorado; Wisconsin Angler Farm, Hartland, Wisconsin; Ben Janson, South Fort Mitchell, Kentucky; Madison Gardens, Madison, Ohio; and John Gent, Webster, New York.

THE END

A GRAFT THAT TOOK

Mrs. Clark Moore, Sycamore, Ohio

After reading Gladys Prince's article in the African Violet Magazine two years ago on how to graft leaves, I started to try my hand at it. I fully believed that it could be done, for I had seen grafting done on fruit trees. Rather a far cry from violets you say? Yes, it might be, but the interest was the same as when I used to help my father do the grafting in the fruit orchard.

Like everything else with violets, it takes patience. I finally learned to take the leaves off far enough ahead so that they would be pliable. Then I slit the stem of one on the front and the other on the back as I had remembered it was written. Don't cut the stem clear through. Have Scotch Tape at hand, and the pot you want to put your graft in. I use Neil Miller's potting medium, as I do for all my leaves.

Fit the sections of your split stems together by putting the leaves in front of each other. Allow at least a good inch to the stem. Work slowly and carefully and hold the segments together with one hand while you put Scotch Tape around the stem from the leaf base to the bottom of the stem. Right about this point you will wish you had another hand, but take it easy and before you know it you will have the stem ready to put into the soil.

Label the stick you put behind the leaf with the names of the two kinds you have used and the date. I have tried covering the plant with a glass, such as a baby food can or small tumbler, and I have grown them with nothing over them in

plastic pots, however, I favor the latter way of growing them.

I have a nice plant on a graft of Celestial Blue (single) and Pink Ideal (double). The flowers are nearly all blue, but some of them have parts with pink tips or now and then a pink flower with a bluish cast. One plant had leaves of both and they were very pronounced. This Celestial Blue has an ordinary type leaf but it seems to take a bronze shade on one part of the plant.

It seems to me that the best way is to try and match leaves of about the same qualities. White Madonna refuses to match up with anything, and many Dupont varieties may be too crisp. Clementine grew well with Pink Beauty. The leaves are Clementine and the flowers are not white or pink but such an ugly color it almost seems they must have slipped in the mud.

Pink Wonder and Purple Dogwood bloomed with one side of the plant pink and very pretty, but the other side had tiny little purple dogwood flowers. The leaves were much the same shape all the way around, but some were a duller green. A leaf taken from near the top after the flower had bloomed on that stem produced a plant with Pink Wonder type foliage, but the flowers were deep pink with streaks of blue. It was quite a conversation piece until a relative's little girl sat smack down in the bottom tray of the Floracart with the graft underneath her.

That was one time when my interest in grafts was at a low ebb, but I waited a while and now I have a new one pushing up a plantlet. It is Wintergreen and Pink Ideal, and I am anxious to see it grow to maturity.

I do not feel that it is any faster to propagate plants this way than with leaves.

THE END

HELEN MONTGOMERY

5744 Oak,

KANSAS CITY 13, MO.



FRESH CUT LEAVES

"THE NEWEST FIRST"

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We ship leaves only, leaf list sent on request. Plants and rooted cuttings of most varieties available at the greenhouse. Closed Thursdays, except by appointment.

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Poets Corner

ROLL CALL VERSES

Fantasy African Violet Club, Wichita, Kansas

NATURE'S WAY

We mixed it and we stirred it,
Now we have a ten day stay,
To plant our little Violets
In good old Nature's Way.

Lillian Stone
Wichita, Kansas

"SURE CURE FOR THE BLUES"

What do I do when I'm feeling blue —
Tired of scrubbing and cooking too?
I turn to my Violets to putter awhile,
For they brighten my day with their sweet
little smiles.

Mrs. Clara Korach
Wichita, Kansas

TOO WET ! !

Sometimes I think I am doing quite well,
I'm as proud as proud can be.
Just yesterday I was bragging about that Plant,
But today it's as limp as can be.
Now, what do you think I did wrong this time?
I'll dig it up hurriedly and see
Lo and behold the roots are all black
And the crown is as brown as can be.
I didn't think I watered too much,
Now how in the heck will I know?
I love them all so very much
And hope they will surely grow.
I guess our Violets are just like us
Some drink and can hold a lot,
While others get drunk and limp and sick,
And finally die and rot.

Mrs. Geo. Duerkson
Wichita, Kansas

WHERE

Where do the Violets come from?
Such beautiful hues and leaves
God sent them from a land of mysteries.
The land is in deep Africa.
Some beauties like Pink Cheer,
A Blue Boy or two,
But give me Purple Knight.

Mrs. LoAlma Knight
Wichita, Kansas

IF

If I were a tiny Violet,
Nestling underneath the light.
I'd be a lot more comfortable,
Than in this girdle, so-o-o tight.

Mrs. Vida Porter.
Wichita, Kansas

"CLUB - CLUB"

The Violet Club draws us together
To share our joys and woes with each other.
C stands for closeness
L binds us in love
U means usefulness
B beauty from above.

Mrs. Mazie Runnels
Wichita, Kansas

THE BLUES

If you get the blues when it doesn't rain,
If you feel feverish and just aren't the same,
If you have no dog or other pets,
I know what's the matter, you need some
Violets.

Mrs. E. R. Reynolds
Wichita, Kansas

THREE

Janousek, Lallement, McClure, Dunn and Stone
Organized the Fantasy Violet Club at the
Sally Means home.
Of the original five — just three survive —
Lallement, Dunn and Stone.

Alma Lallement
Wichita, Kansas

VIOLET TROUBLE

I have so many violets,
I have thought that they were trouble,
But when my rainbow married,
Its little kids were "double".

Clara Novotny
Beatrice, Nebraska

President's Message



Mr. Carter

One of the nicest things that comes with being the head of any organization is the number of fine friends one makes. This summer I have met many members who have been passing through near Tewksbury, and have stopped in to say hello. While it is impossible to meet all of you, the ones that I do meet, just go to prove further what a fine group of people make up our Society.

My wife and I were touring in Vermont last month, and we stopped to visit one of my college classmates in a little farm town of Waitsfield near the center of the State. We hadn't seen either him or his wife for seventeen years, although we have kept in touch via mail. Much to our surprise and pleasure, when we parked in front of their farm house, two windows of African violets in full bloom were in glorious display. On checking I learned later that she had only purchased one plant and all the others were exchanged from friends. I asked her, "How do you expect me to make money if that is the way you get new plants?" Just to add to her problems I sent her sixteen more varieties as soon as I arrived home.

It was really a thrill to land in this beautiful country town, and find our favorite plant had found its way so effectively into the home of my old classmate. Due to the hectic lack of farm labor and the low price of milk on the farm this family is tied down seven days a week. Cows demand that kind of attention. I cannot help but feel that African violets were doing much to make their home more enjoyable than almost any group of plants.

My firm does a large amount of wholesale shipping of plants by Railroad Express over quite a number of States. Some years ago, we adopted the plan of placing with every invoice a self addressed postage paid postal report card with places to check off, the time, the date shipment was received, and the condition in which it arrived. A couple of blank lines were left for remarks. This idea has paid off handsomely, as through it we learn immediately how our customer relations are going. Mistakes we make are promptly noted, and any poor service rendered by the Railway Express is acknowledged. By carefully following up of these cards we have been able to greatly improve our service.

I wonder if something of the same sort couldn't be worked out for our Society, making it easy for you folks to voice your suggestions or criticisms? If you don't like the way the Society is run, or if you have any suggestions write me and I will see what can be done.

The new dues rates are now in effect as I stated, that they would be, in my last message. The rise is not large, but this increase will enable your Society to pay the extra expenses, that will come with the establishment, of a paid Executive Secretary. I expect that your committee will choose this officer very soon, as we are about through screening our applicants. Your committee has painstakingly gone over their qualifications, and believes that we will have the right one for the position.

This is a very important milestone in our Society, and should do much to improve our services. Your support in securing new members is one way you can help your Society's progress. Let every member get a New Member!

Sincerely,

William B. Carter

Ideas From The Heart Of America

Bill Smithson, Kansas City, Missouri

Many articles and thousands of words have been written on how to grow our mutual friend the African violet. Our only purpose in writing this is to let you know of some of the things we do in our area. Perhaps our ideas are good, perhaps not. We all have our own.

Let us assume that you received your leaf from one of the people who sell fresh cut leaves. It probably reached you with the stem tip wrapped in moist cotton covered with foil. Be very careful in removing them for the stem is really quite fragile. If the stem is longer than you like or has not been cut, do so with a razor blade. With the leaf in its normal position, we cut on a slant downward through the stem so that the angle of cut is toward the base of the stem away from the leaf proper. This will help to insure that the little plantlets will come from the stem on the side of the upper side of the leaf.

Now that your leaf is prepared, leave the fresh cut to heal a few minutes. Your leaf is tired after its trip in the box for two or three days. It will enjoy a drink and maybe a little stimulant. We use a four ounce round chemical bottle just because it is a convenient size. Any type bottle with a reasonably wide mouth will do. Fill the bottle with a very dilute solution (about $\frac{1}{4}$ strength) of Plant Marvel or other soluble fertilizer. The solution should be just warm to your finger. Over the bottle top place a square of ordinary aluminum foil, crimp down around the sides so the foil cap will remain in place. With your sharpened pencil, pierce a hole in the foil just slightly larger than the leaf stem.

The leaf is started in water.



Insert the leaf stem through the foil into the water. Don't forget to mark the name of your leaf. We find a small strip of masking tape placed near the bottom of the bottle works well. The bottom position allows you to see through the bottle and watch what your leaf is doing. Place the bottle and leaf where it can get light but not direct sun or intense fluorescent light. A north window is very good.

Now we come to two divergent schools of thought. Regardless of which you choose, we suggest two days in the dilute fertilizer solution. This will saturate the leaf with water, stiffen it, and generally improve its condition and chance of survival.



Tray of leaves.

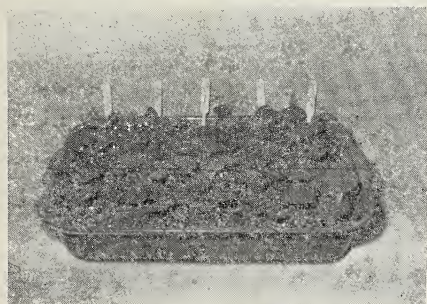
If you are of the school anxious to get your leaf planted, we suggest planting in a flat pan in a mixture of one fourth potting soil and three fourths vermiculite. We suggest a depth of about one-half inch. It may be necessary to support the leaf with a plastic stake. Place in good light but not direct sunlight or brightest fluorescent. Water with dilute fertilizer solution. Remember leaves can tolerate more water than plants and prefer to be kept slightly on the moist side.

Rooted leaf ready for planting.



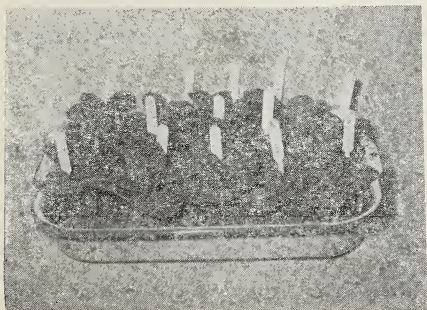
If you prefer to root your leaves in water, which we personally do, leave them in the bottle of dilute fertilizer water until the little roots are about one-fourth inch long. Tear the foil to remove the leaf from the bottle so as not to damage the roots. Plant and care for as above.

Your reward will be coming in about a month or six weeks. You will notice little plants popping up from the base of the stem. Occasionally they will appear up on the stem or at the base of the leaf. These are normally weak in vitality and are best pinched off in the hope of producing plants at the stem base. When the little plant top is about the size of a half dollar, carefully push it from the mother leaf and the other plantlets with a sharpened pencil getting a portion of the root system if at all possible. Plant in a flat pan in



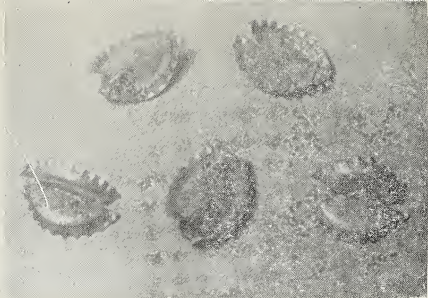
Just weaned from mother leaf.

a mixture of one-fourth soil and the remainder vermiculite. Gradually condition the little plants to stronger light. Watch them carefully and do not let them get bone dry. They like to be slightly on the moist side but please do not drown them.



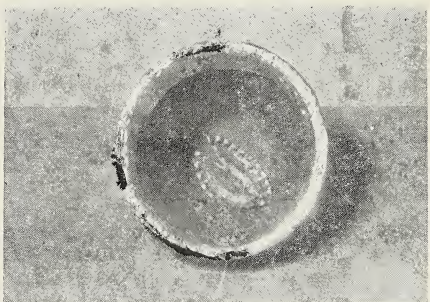
Ready for replanting.

While your small plants are growing you can be making plans for their next transplanting. We like to provide drainage in our pots and also have something we can use later to push the plant out of the pot for transplanting. For this we find soft drink bottle caps very useful. We



"Tents" for pot bottom.

use tin snips to cut the crimped ring on opposite sides of the circle, be sure to cut clear through the crimped edge. With the inside or cork side up, we bend down the edges of the cap forming sort of a tent. It gets a little hard on the thumbs but we feel it is worth the effort.

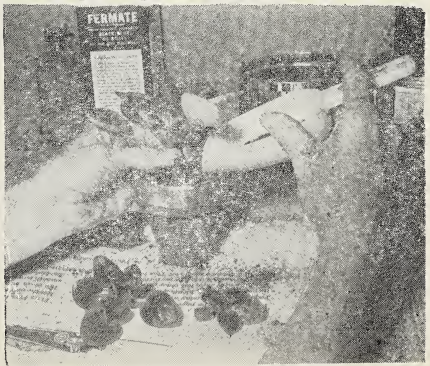


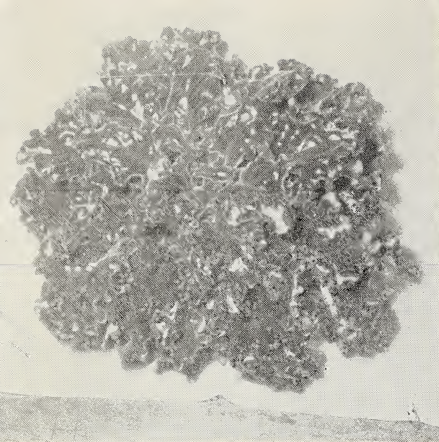
Pot ready for planting. Note the tent in bottom of pot.

To protect our leaves from the salts that collect about the rim of the pot, we use aluminum foil. From the ordinary heavy duty kitchen foil, we cut strips about an inch wide. We draw the strip of foil tightly about the top of the pot with about half the width extending above the pot rim. This we crimp down inside the pot making sure it is as tight as possible so that it is sure to stay in place.

We formerly mixed our own soil but for a number of reasons have switched to commercially

Repotting young plants. (Mrs. Dunlap's hands.)





T. V. Cut Velvet



Our plants growing the fluorescent way.

available prepared African violet soil. We have had quite good luck with one called Mellow-Mix. It comes in three pound plastic bags and contains the soil conditioner Krillium. To each three pound bag we add about half a cup of fine chip charcoal, a tablespoon of tobacco dust and a teaspoon of Fermate. In spite of the experts saying no, we believe we have had less trouble with crown rot since we added Fermate to our potting soil. If we want to give our plants a little extra boost, we add about half a cup of steam dried pulverized cow manure. Your potting soil should not be dusty dry but should contain just enough moisture so that it does not dust but still flows freely.

While all these preparations have been taking place, we hope your baby plant has grown into a healthy youngster with about eight leaves, ready to transplant. Carefully lift your plant from the flat with a fork or spoon. Choose a pot of a size in proportion to the root system. Some may take only a two-inch, others as much as a three and a half. Over the hole in the bottom of the pot place a bottle cap tent with its ridge up. Cover the tent with soil. Hold the young plant in one hand at a height so that the line where the bottom leaves and the top roots join the main stem of the plant is about one-quarter inch below the top rim of the pot. With the free hand add small quantities of potting soil. Press down rather firmly but do not see how hard you can pack it. Continue adding soil in small quantities until the level is about a quarter inch from the pot rim. Do not forget to put the plant name on the pot. Water well, preferably from the bottom as the soil takes up moisture slowly the first time.

We place our pots on benches filled with vermiculite which has been treated with V-C 13. We find the vermiculite aids in keeping up the humidity, and helps in our method of watering by providing drainage. Growing in quantity causes us to use top watering as a time saver. We simply use the old fashioned garden sprinkler and just sprinkle them. This keeps the leaves

clean and raises the humidity, since the vermiculite absorbs the excess moisture. In this type of watering your water should be warm but not hot enough to cook the leaves.

Growing in the basement, we naturally use fluorescent lights. We use standard two tube 40 watt industrial fixtures. Our lights on the average measure seventeen inches from the bench and the fixtures are on thirty-four inch centers. We have very little trouble with burned foliage and our leaves are unusually dark green. Our lights are just a bit too far apart because the light dims out just a bit in the center between fixtures. It's just because the 24 fixtures and 48 tubes are all the electric current we can afford. In the same pattern along the bench, we place a warm white and a cool white tube in each fixture. The warm white is to encourage bloom, and the cool white for strong dark foliage. We, at one time, tried all cool white tubes and found ourselves very short of bloom. We still do not get all the blossoms we would like, but believe we crowd our plants, and that there is too little circulation of air around them.

For feeding we use mainly Plant Marvel. Instead of using it full strength, we prefer half strength twice as often as recommended. For best results we believe you should stick to your fertilizing schedule very closely. However, truthfully, we do not practice what we preach, simply because we do not get around to it, too many plants plus too many extra curricular activities. We space our feeding considerably during the hot months but do not stop entirely. We do not believe that there is any certain time when a plant should rest nor that it should be forced to rest by pulling all its blossoms. An African violet will rest when it feels the need, and sometimes it decides to rest at a rather inopportune time.

So we have set forth some of our ideas — here in the Heart of America. If you find some you can use, we will feel that we have achieved our purpose.

THE END

COLUMNNEA X EUPHORA, A NEW HYBRID

Harold E. Moore, Jr.

Reprinted with permission from Bailey

A hybrid *Columnnea* which shows some promise of horticultural value was produced at Cornell University by Owen M. Rogers in 1953. Its parents are *Columnnea gloriosa*, the showy vining species frequently cultivated in the United States, and *C. lepidocaula*, a less common orange-and-yellow-flowered shrubby species from Costa Rica.

Unfortunately, the progeny have been dispersed so that a complete account of the variation in the first generation cannot now be given. A vigorous plant selected for retention at Cornell University is now flowering abundantly. The stems branch repeatedly almost throughout their length. They retain the graceful habit of *C. gloriosa* but are much stouter. Foliage retains the general shape of that in *C. gloriosa* but is considerably larger, less prominently hairy, and of a rich deep green.

Almost every node bears a flower. These are about 7 cm. long, in shape resembling those of *C. lepidocaula*, with the upper lip narrower than in *C. gloriosa*. Predominant colors are vermilion (Royal Horticultural Society Color Chart 18) ageing to nearly blood-red (R. H. S. Chart 820) on the back and lips of the corolla, chrome yellow (R. H. S. Chart 605) on the lower side of the corolla-tube. The calyx has retained the spreading, arched lobes of *C. gloriosa*. The luxuriant growth and abundant production of flowers suggest the epithet *euphora* which means productive or bearing well.

Columnnea x euphora new hybrid (*C. gloriosa* X *C. lepidocaula*).

Hybrida inter parentes intermedia caulibus robustis pendulis foliis ovatis floribus solitariis 7 cm. longis calycis lobis eis C. gloriosae similibus corolla ea C. lepidocaulae simili sed rubra filamentis pilosiusculis.

Type: Cultivated at Cornell University, Ithaca,

New York, November 1956, H. E. Moore,

Jr. 7200 in Bailey Hortorium.

Stems of *Columnnea x euphora* are robust, about 5 mm. in diameter and to nearly 1 meter in length. Young growth is green with a dense cover of short red-tipped hairs; older growth is brown with hairs often dirty-white. Opposite ovate leaves to 5.5 cm. long, 3 cm. wide, and rounded or obliquely subcordate at the base, are dark green and densely hairy with very short, erect, pale hairs above, paler and similarly hairy

below, especially on the 3-4 pairs of prominent veins. Flowers are solitary in the leaf-axils on densely pale-or red-tipped hairy pedicels 2 cm. long. These are stout, curved upward, and thickened below the calyx of spreading, densely hairy, ovate, green lobes to 1 cm. long, 7 mm. wide. The corolla, 7 cm. long, with a slender curved tube about 3.3 cm. long, is vermilion shading to yellow on the lower side of the tube. The blunt or slightly notched upper lip has triangular lateral lobes; the lower lip is 2 cm. long, yellow at the basal sinuses. Soft, translucent, erect spreading hairs about 2 mm. long cover the entire outer surface of the corolla, which has, in addition, a cover of shorter hairs on the inner surface of both lips. Filaments and style are shortly pilose as in *C. lepidocaula*.

Chromosomes of *C. gloriosa* were reported as $2n=18$ in root-tips by Rogers in Bailey 2: 16 (1954). *Columnnea lepidocaula* has a similar complement, counted but not previously reported by Rogers. Miss Catherine Fussell of Cornell University has determined the chromosome number of *Columnnea x euphora* as $n=9$ from sporocyte material.

THE END

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Clean, economical and easy to apply. For African violets you use one teaspoonful of Garden Joy per quart of water and feed your plants as you water them at intervals of approximately every three weeks. For better results with your African violets, start now to use Garden Joy.

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WRAP YOUR GREENHOUSE IN PLASTIC

Catherine B. Sheperd, Arlington, Virginia

When I read about plastic being used to line a greenhouse for wintertime, I decided to try it, to find out what benefits would be derived from using it. My small Orlyt is thirteen feet by thirteen feet, with a potting room added on to it eight feet by eight feet. This has six windows and a glass door. Two Red Devil heaters are at opposite corners. They used to stand under the bench, but when a concrete floor was put in (because of termites) the heaters came above the bench, which had to be cut away from them. A section of the glass of the roof had to be taken out and replaced with metal for the pipes to go through the roof.

I bought the plastic sheeting fifty-four inches wide, which is usually sold in lots. No instructions for using it came with the plastic. I got a man to put it up, who admitted he had never put up any before. After he got started he told me that I better get someone else to finish it. I didn't know much about it either but I suggested one or two things and he decided to go on. Three pieces of fine wire were strung from end to end, one through the center and one on either side. Each strip was taken over this wire and reached from one bench to the other, and across the greenhouse. We did not cement the strips together this time but made a good wrap where it joined and held it in place with pieces of masking tape. The plastic was fastened to the woodwork of the frame at the top sides, and hung into the benches. Thumb tacks were used, with a piece of tape between the plastic and the wood. The ends in the benches were fastened in a like manner. There are two vents on each side and a very large one at the back. These were covered with the plastic all winter, and the back of the greenhouse was covered in the same way. The roof ventilators are automatic and there was plenty of space for them to operate.

The weather has to be considered, but the heating cost during the coldest month in 1956 was \$38.55 and during the coldest month in 1957 was \$25.76. That should speak for itself.

The plastic can be used over and over again. The next time it is put up it will be improved upon. I use plastic for several things, and am always pleased with the results.

THE END

PINK ICE

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\$1.00 Each.

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2321 Wilkes Ave.

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THE NAME'S THE SAME

Mrs. Chester N. Curtis, Omaha, Nebraska

After carefully studying my violet listings from the different growers, I sent in my leaf orders. The leaves arrived and are now proudly standing against the labels in the vermiculite on my propagating bench in the basement. They are all set for the summer.

What a thrill it is to decide which ones I want, and a thrill to receive them, grow them, and watch them come into bloom. I love every minute of it.

It was while studying the listings that it occurred to me how terribly confusing it must be to the new members who are sending for leaves, rooted cuttings, or plants for the first time. Same name, but the descriptions are so different. Somebody surely goofed. Wonder which is the right one? It isn't really as bad as it sounds. The fact is that they are usually double identities, the same name but a different originator.

For example:

PINK PETTICOATS (Mrs. Vallin) fringed single pink bloom, ruffled foliage.

BUD'S PINK PETTICOATS (Brewer) deep double pink bloom, bronzy green girl foliage.

JUNE BRIDE (Tinari's) frilled white single bloom, wavy foliage.

JUNE BRIDE (Hammond's) frilled white single bloom, girl leaf.

PINK CAMELLIA (Lyon's) double pink flower, girl foliage.

PINK CAMELLIA (Tonkadale's) extra large light pink double bloom, very dark amazon leaf.

Then I found this one:

PINK CAMELLIA (Anderson). At first I thought "Gee Gads another one," and then it dawned on me that Bob Anderson is the owner of Tonkadale's. "Brother it is confusing! "

Sometimes I think I will stick exclusively to Ceramics, but do you know that is confusing at times too.

Please do not think this is a criticism of the growers who send out listings. I love every one of them, and when I am lucky enough to receive a new one that is a special day for me. This is what I mean, wouldn't it be better to list them as above so as not to have misunderstandings and disappointed customers?

THE END

— REVISED EDITION JUST OFF THE PRESS —
"AFRICAN VIOLET HANDBOOK FOR
EXHIBITORS AND JUDGES"

Information on show plants, show procedure, color classes, judges and judging, African violet arrangements. Scale of points for judging specimens, arrangements, etc.

\$1.00 PER COPY

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SAINTPAULIAS

African Violets, labeled, different. Sturdy young plants 12/\$4.50. Leaves, 10/\$1.25, 30/\$3.25, 30/\$6.50. List 3¢. Folder 20¢. Good to send a friend. Descriptions, 'easy-do's' of 10 years growing. A. V. and Giant Hybrid Gloxinia seed . . . 150 seed 50¢, 400 seed \$1. Daylilies for naturalizing: Fine Hybrid seedlings 12/\$1.75: hand-pollinated seed \$1. pkg.

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Especially adapted to Violet growing
Absolutely no chemicals in Blue Whale
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ODORLESS — WILL NOT BURN

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HEAVENLY STARS!

New Symmetrical Showy Stars

Star Delight
(white and purple)

Star of the North
(white, the finest)

Star Perfection
(huge pink)

Star Sapphire
(improved)

Star Triumph
(brilliant plum-red)

Every collector should have these striking new stars, now.

\$2.00 per plant—Minimum order is \$6.00

Special Handling and Insurance Included

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Visitors Welcome

HISTORY OF SAINTPAULIA* PART IV

ITS INTERNATIONAL BEGINNING AND EARLY CULTURE

Evan Roberts, Dept. of Horticulture, Michigan State, Michigan

In the last article concerning the History of *Saintpaulia* in Volume 7, Number 4 of the *African Violet Magazine*, it is written that Mr. Hermann Wendland first identified and gave African violets their botanical name. It is further stated that he published a very precise botanical description in the German Magazine, "Garten-

flora" of June 10, 1893. Figure 1 shows a part of the description at the tip of the drawing. The original article also contains a color illustration of an entire flowering plant.

* Cont. from the *African Violet Magazine*, Vol. 7, No. 4.

Figure I. A photographic copy of a part of the original description of the African Violet, *SAINTPAULIA IONANTHA* Herm. Wendl. which appeared in *GARTENFLORA*, June 10, 1893.

gefärbte Staubbeutel, die am Grunde rückwärts mit ihren Trägern verbunden sind und sich nur in ihrer unteren Hälfte wenig öffnen. Ein sogenannter Discus ist nicht vorhanden. Der Fruchtknoten ist länglich, ungefähr so lang

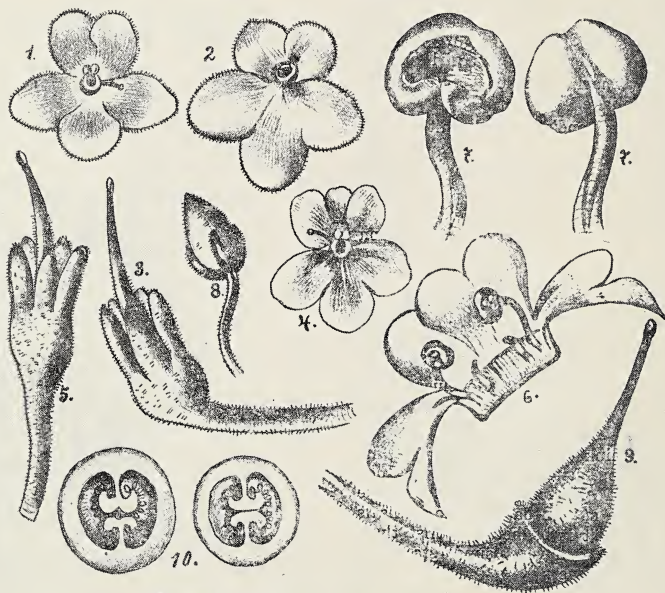


Abbildung 66. *Saintpaulia ionantha* Herm. Wendl.

- Fig. 1. Blumenkrone von vorn gesehen, natürliche Grösse.
- » 2. Blumenkrone von rückwärts gesehen, natürliche Grösse.
- » 3. Kelch zu 1 und 2, etwas vergrössert.
- » 4. Blumenkrone, natürliche Grösse.
- » 5. Kelch zu 4, etwas vergrössert.
- » 6. Blumenkrone geöffnet, etwas vergrössert.
- » 7. Zwei Staubfäden von innen und aussen, etwas vergrössert.
- » 8. Unreife Frucht, natürliche Grösse.
- » 9. Unreife Frucht nach Wegnahme der Kelchblätter, vergrössert.
- » 10. Durchschnitt der Frucht in verschiedener Höhe, vergrössert.

The African violet was soon given more recognition as a plant of considerable charm. Sir Joseph Hooker writing in *Curtis' Botanical Magazine*, 1895, in a text accompanying a plate numbered 7408 states, "It does not often happen that a plant newly introduced into Europe can claim the honor accorded to the subject of this plate, of being within two years of its flowering figured in five first-class horticultural periodicals."

It is now known that this plant was featured in more than five floricultural periodicals of the era. These periodicals are as follows: *Gartenflora* (Berlin, 1893); the *Gardner's Chronicle* (London, 1893); *Revue Horticole* (Paris, 1893); *Revue de l'Horticulture Belge et Etrange' re* (Brussels, 1894); *Illustrierte Monatschrift fur Gartenbau* (Erfurt, 1894); *Bullettino Della R. Societa Toscana Di Orticultura* (Florence, 1894); *Curtis' Botanical Magazine* (London, 1895); *American Gardening* (New York, 1895). Thus the African violet became internationally known shortly after it was first described by Wendland.

Ulrich Saint Paul-Illaire had given Mr. Wendland specimens for identification and had apparently asked him to make arrangements for its commercial distribution. Hermann wrote that the ownership rights of the *Saintpaulia* belonged to the firm of Ernst Benary, Erfurt, Germany.

The Erfurt seed firm was started by Mr. Ernst Benary (see figure 2) and became one of the most extensive seed-growing industries in the world just before the time of the introduction of the African violet from East Africa. According to his grandson: on April 1, 1843, he founded, in Erfurt, an establishment for seed growing. Gradually his business grew, in consequence of his industry and knowledge of commercial plants, which led him to the perfecting of every sort of vegetable and flower that he took in hand. He never deviated from the principle of introducing anything which after repeated trials was not proven to be a real improvement. The business connection at Erfurt soon spread beyond the limits of his own country, and the effects of his labours were evident in every department of horticulture, and in all parts of the civilized world.

From Mr. Benary's achievements in his own profession, and services thereby rendered to his town and native country, he was nominated by the Emperor "Geheimer Kommerzienrat," a title which has no equivalent in English, but may be rendered as "Commercial Privy Councillor". It was the highest honor to which a merchant in Germany could aspire.

Mr. Ernst Benary died on Sunday morning, February 10, 1893, from an inflammation of the lungs, after an illness of only two days. There was no change in the general policies of the firm after his death as it was continued by his two sons in the same spirit as before. Mr. Wendland may have made arrangements for the commercial distribution of the African violet with Ernst

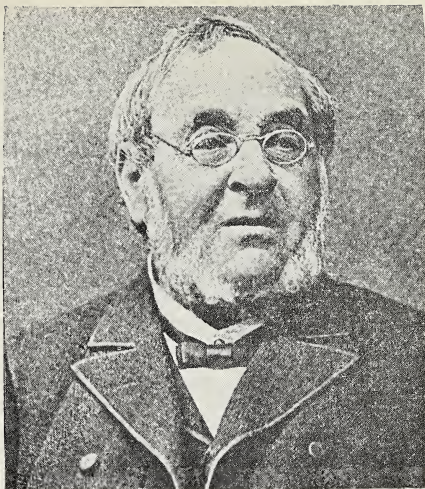


Figure 11. Mr. Ernst Benary, originator of the commercial seed firm of Ernst Benary, Erfurt, Germany; the first firm to offer seeds and plants of the African violet for sale.

Benary before Mr. Benary died or he may have dealt directly with Friedrich Benary, one of the sons. It was his son Friedrich who was the first commercial plantsman to offer *Saintpaulia* seeds to the world. A more complete account of Friedrich Benary may be found in the *African Violet Magazine*, Volume 3, Number 3. Ernst Benary, the son of Friedrich Benary and grandson of the first Ernest Benary, managed the firm until 1952 when the Reds expropriated the organization in the Soviet Zone and he had to flee.

The first horticultural varieties of the African violet were offered through the seed company of Ernst Benary by Mr. Friedrich Benary. A red-violet flowered variety was announced by him in 1898 as well as a white variety called, "alba" and other varieties which were given the variety names of "ateocoeerulea" and "purpurea". Varieties of *Saintpaulia* were offered by this concern until 1951 when the control of the firm fell into the hands of the communists.

From 1893 to 1930 various writings in horticultural and botanical publications indicate that *Saintpaulia* was mainly grown under glass structures. A favorite place to exhibit these plants was near the edges of staging in public and private greenhouses and at flower shows.

In the *Revue Horticole* (1901), Edward Andre' described the use of the African violet as an outdoor plant for bedding into a rock garden at La Croix in a situation like that which *Ramondia* would require: perfect drainage, a north exposure and a good leaf soil. He further suggested that the plants could be salvaged in the autumn. Since Mr. Andre's time various authors writing in the *African Violet Magazine* have mentioned growing African Violets successfully out-of-doors and have given their methods.

Editors note: To be continued.

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INTERNATIONAL SHOW

Cynthia Gay Lang, Brooklyn, New York

The Fortieth International Flower Show was held in New York City's new Coliseum at Columbus Circle from March 31st through April 6th, 1957.

Upon entering the show, the first exhibit I saw to the right of the room was that of Fischer Greenhouses of Linwood, New Jersey. They had lovely plants for sale, and were showing some of their new 1957 introductions, such as Pink Champagne, and some of the lovely Multifloras. One of their show plants of Multiflora Ice Blue was so beautiful that everyone was commenting on it. I purchased several lovely plants, and wished that I could have looked at their exhibit for hours!

Carlton Villa of Hightstown, New Jersey, also had a very nice display which featured many kinds of plants, including of course African violets, and I felt compelled to make a purchase here.

Rose Acres Nurseries of Salisbury Mills, New York, had a lovely display, and right out front was a huge plant of Thunderhead which had the largest white flowers I had ever seen. I wanted a Thunderhead, and though I wondered how I could manage to carry any more, I got a small plant.

Arcadian Gardens was also there, and, of course, I could not pass them by without a purchase.

A commercial florist had a breathtaking display of African violets set in moss on the banks of a small stream with real running water. This display included some of the double pinks such as Evelyn Johnson. Show Star was there too. Each plant in this display was more beautiful than the one before it.

I believe that the African violet was surely the plant which created the most excitement at the show. There was always a traffic jam of people around the violets, waiting to get to the counters to buy some of the lovely plants. They seemed to be sold as quickly as they were put on the counters.

I think it would be safe to say that African violets in their own demure quiet way completely captured the hearts of New York, and I am sure that there are now many new violet fans! Once you see your first violet you are lost.

THE END

AFRICAN VIOLET SHOPPE

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MRS. J. FRATHEL

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Takes All Kinds To Make A Club

Since clubs are little worlds of their own, it is interesting to note the different types of people who make up a club. Of course your club is probably the exception and has none of these characters among your members. They must exist only in other clubs, and here is a list of what other clubs have to put up with.

THE VISITING VIOLETEER

This gal transferred to the club from way back home. "That ain't the way we did it in our club" is her opening remark every time she speaks. Whatever subject or project is under discussion, she is good for a long run-down on how things were done in her hometown club. Before she is half way through, three-fourths of the members wonder why she ever left home.

THE WET SPONGE

She just loves to sit back smugly during meetings while plans are made for shows, tours, etc., then when all is settled she rises very pompously and starts in with a thousand and one reasons as to why they can't be on certain dates, why they can't go to certain places, why they can't do certain things, etc., doing her best (she hopes) to blow everything sky high.

THE PROMOTER

This member always has an angle, in fact it seems like hundreds of angles. If the club is going to buy something, she can get it wholesale. If the club needs guidance, she knows just the one to give it. If an individual member wants to get certain new varieties, she knows just who has each and every one. There is hardly anything she cannot buy, beg, borrow, fix, or give advice on, according to her story.

THE WOUNDED SOUL

In this woman's opinion, the club is ruled by a clique. Aren't the same gals always running things? Of course, every time she is asked to serve on a committee or devote a little time to club affairs she has a thousand and one different excuses. Her run for an office? Heck, she just doesn't have the time. But she has plenty of time

to criticize the members who run for office and spend a great deal of time and effort to keep the club running. She wants new blood, but makes darn sure none of it is hers.

THE OUTSIDE ORATOR

Most clubs have one or more of these. She has absolutely nothing to say in the meetings, but let her meet a few of the club members the next day and she can tell them exactly where the club made its mistakes. In fact, she insists upon doing so. She could have told them they were barking up the wrong tree; that the president didn't know what she was doing; that the club was going to be sorry it ever fell for such poppycock; that things were really going to the dogs with the kind of leadership they had. That's Mrs. Orator on the job; in the club meeting she becomes Mrs. Clam.

THE SAD SACK

To this gal everything is wrong. The meeting place is not conveniently located. The meeting room is too warm or too cold. The president is trying to be a dictator if she runs a tight meeting; but if she doesn't then she is a weak sister. The club doesn't meet on a convenient day. The club should have more and better refreshments. There are not enough little shows during the year. There are not enough interesting programs planned. In fact, whatever the majority is for, she's against.

IN CONCLUSION

These are only some of the types most clubs have. Isn't it a good thing you and I aren't that way? We are good, solid members! Everything we say is logical, clear-cut and wise. We don't have any prejudices, faults or failings. Isn't the club lucky to have gals of our caliber in it — gals with good heads on their shoulders and their feet on the ground??

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REPOTTING AFRICAN VIOLETS

H. G. Harvey, Atlanta, Georgia

It is good practice to periodically repot our African violets. This is not absolutely necessary for the violet will grow and thrive for almost any length of time in any pot it is put in, but properly done, a collection of African violets correctly repotted will on the average be somewhat better than the same collection not repotted.

When plants are first purchased from a dealer and started at home, it is good practice to leave them in the container they were obtained in for from two to four weeks. The change in location and growing routine is enough of a shock for the plant to recover from without the additional strain of the disturbance caused by changing the pot. This period more or less coincides with the quarantine period that every new plant should go through before it is made a fully qualified member of one's collection. After this relatively short period is over, every self respecting grower wants her plant in her own soil and in her own type of pot.

The new plant is probably in a pot somewhere between the two and the two and a half inch size. Occasionally, when tapped out of this pot, it may show evidence of being slightly pot bound. By that is meant that when tapped out, the soil retains exactly the contours of the pot and the external surface of the ball of soil exposed is shot through with little rootlets which have been pressing against the inside surface of the pot. The purist will insist that a plant is not pot bound until the entire ball of soil is a mass of roots, with some of the roots growing out of the pot through the drain hole. However, the writer likes to call a plant "slightly pot bound" when the surface of the ball is covered with roots, even though there may be a space in the center which is not yet completely filled with roots. He is very happy and proud when he finds this condition in one of his plants.

The big majority of young plants sold, however, do not have their root system this well developed by the time the first blooms appear. It is good advice to repot such new non-root bound plants in pots of the same size they were purchased in and to keep them with the immature or baby plants of the collection until they do become slightly pot bound. While this is good advice, it will not be followed. Being the impatient people we are, doubtless the plant will be repotted immediately in the smallest size pot used in the main or exhibition collection, which will probably be about a three inch pot.

How long the plant should remain in this three inch (or there about) pot depends upon three things; first, when the plant becomes pot bound; second, when the leaves extend too far

beyond the edge of the pot; and third, when enough leaves have been broken off, removed or died, to leave an unsightly stem sticking up out of the ground below the lowest leaves of the plant. There is a fourth condition calling for repotting, which is largely academic with a plant in a three inch pot. The plant should be repotted once a year any way, since that is as long as it is fair to assume that the soil in the pot will stay in good condition. However, if your plant in its initial three inch pot does not attain one of the other three limitations in a year's time, a rather soul searching analysis of your violet growing technique is strongly indicated.

All four of these conditions are subject to the judgment of the individual grower and all four of them are controversial. Perhaps the most controversial of the bunch is the pot bound condition. Recently the practice of growing African violets in a pot bound condition has been growing in popularity rapidly. This practice has sufficient merit to recommend it that it can not be shrugged off with the statement that that is not the way violets have been grown in the past. At very least, it avoids the practice of over potting. There is no question but what it is extremely easy to over pot an African violet. The small plant in the large pot just sitting there and doing nothing, week after week, is all too familiar. On the other hand, the African violet does not need to be pot bound to produce flowers in beauty and profusion. This has been proven over the years. It has also been proven that the plant will produce abundant flowers when pot bound. He would be a brave person indeed who would say which method produces bigger, better or more abundant flowers. The only real conclusion which can be reached is that, pot bound or not pot bound, either way will work and the choice between them is a matter of personal preference and experiment.

The writer's working plan is to try to keep a plant in a small (three inch) pot until it is slightly pot bound and then to shift it to a four inch pot, hoping it will become pot bound in that. If a plant pot bound in a three inch pot is good, it seems logical to assume that one pot bound in a four inch pot is better and it is quite certain that a plant pot bound in a three inch pot is not over potted when moved to a four inch pot. In the three inch pot, it seems to be a race to see whether the leaves will grow to too big a diameter for the pot before the roots fill it. Generally, the leaves win, and the plant is shifted before it becomes pot bound. Barring the leaf situation, it seems to be fairly easy to develop a plant to the point where its roots will fill a three inch pot. It is not nearly so easy, but it

appears possible about half of the time, under favorable conditions, to develop a plant where it is slightly pot bound in a four inch pot. In any larger pot than a four inch one, say a five inch, the possessor of a pot bound plant has something to brag about. It can happen but it does not seem to happen very often.

It would appear, then, that if we decided to raise pot bound plants, we would have practically no five or six inch pots. The real reason why we see numerous five or six inch pots in African violet collections over the country is that in the smaller pots, the leaves extend too far over the edge of the pot, droop down and either touch the table or become unsightly. So we are really using the edge of the pot as a leaf support and we shift to a larger pot to get a larger diameter leaf support. The grower does not express it that way. She says that the plant looks unbalanced, too large a plant in too small a pot and she shifts it to a larger pot to make it look right, and to improve its appearance. This is a perfectly good reason for repotting the plant. Just how far over the edge of the pot the leaves can project before something has to be done about it is a matter of individual opinion. Perhaps it is a fair average of amateur practice to say that the leaves can project over the edge of the pot a distance on each side equal to the diameter of the pot. This would mean that a plant nine inches in diameter is the largest that one would like to have in a three inch pot, twelve inches in a four and fifteen inches in a five. Practically speaking, and with due allowance for individual differences in accepted plant diameters, this is probably the most frequent reason for shifting an African violet to a larger pot.

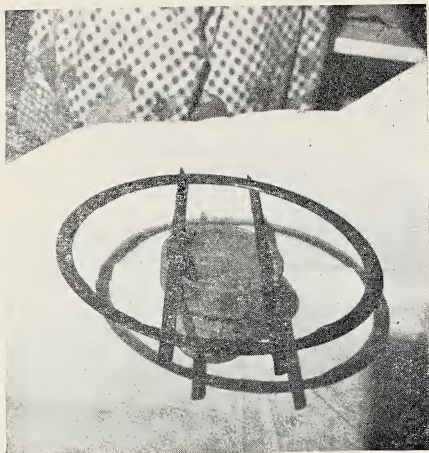
Growing an African violet under pot bound conditions does not seem to have any important effect in dwarfing the plant. Given the chance, the leaves of a pot bound plant seem to want to grow just about as long and big and just about as rapidly as those of its non-pot bound brother. The writer has seen a very beautiful and symmetrical plant with gorgeous and prolific blooms and leaves, sixteen inches in diameter growing happily and contentedly in a three inch pot. The grower, who was Mrs. Frank Wheeler of Atlanta, had been forced, of course, to do something about a leaf support. Her answer had been to take one of the disposable metal pie plates that some bakers sell pies in and cut out a circle about a half an inch wide from the outer edge of this plate. The diameter of the support was therefore the same as the outside diameter of the pie plate, which was eight inches. Two wooden plant labels of the proper length were placed on top of the three inch pot and the ring cut from the pie plate was placed on top of the two wooden labels in a position to properly support the leaves. Both ring and wooden strips were painted green to make them inconspicuous. The effect was very pleasing, although at first sight it was quite a shock to see such a large and well grown plant springing from such a small pot. Mrs. Wheeler



African violet with a fifteen inch leaf spread and forty-six flowers growing in a three inch pot. The variety is Sweet violet (Brown's Greenhouses, Newnan, Georgia) from the collection of Mrs. Frank Wheeler, Atlanta, Georgia.

This plant is completely pot bound in a four inch standard clay pot. The variety is Blue Gem from the collection of Mrs. Frank Wheeler.





An African violet leaf support resting on a three inch pot. This eight inch ring rests on two halves of a ten inch wooden plant label that is divided longitudinally.

says that it is lucky that both she and her husband like pies very much, since each leaf support means that some one has to eat one pie and she has a lot of plants that need leaf supports.

The use of leaf supports is frowned upon by show judges at present, and a leaf support disqualifies a plant from exhibition in a show. It has been considered that a leaf support is an artificial aid to overcome weakness in the leaf petioles, and that deliberate condoning of such a weakness in the plant should not be encouraged. If the pot bound enthusiasts continue to develop their hobby to the extreme and to grow six inch pot size plants in three inch pots with the aid of leaf supports, the show attitude toward leaf supports may have to be re-examined. There are complications, however, since the admission of leaf supports would practically force every one exhibiting a large plant to use one, whether she wanted to or not, since a large plant with a leaf support shows off better than one without any. Meanwhile, the pot bound folks can to a certain extent crook the judges, since the support can be removed for a day or two to exhibit the plant, and then be replaced when the plant is back again in the privacy of its own home.

For the middle of the roaders, growth in the size of the plant is the most frequent reason for shifting a plant to a larger pot, disregarding, to a large extent, any consideration of the root

structure. The opinion or judgment of the grower as to the size of a plant for a given size pot is the general criterion, and practically all of us go by the "feel" or intuition as each case comes up. If a definite mechanical rule is desired, perhaps the one outlined next is about as good as any. Shift from a three inch pot to a four inch one when the diameter of the plant exceeds nine inches; from a four to a five at twelve inches diameter; and from a five to a six above fifteen inches. Above a six inch pot, let your conscience be your guide. In my case, so far, my conscience has never permitted me to exceed the six inch size. After all, an African violet in any pot above a four inch one is, in all probability, over-potted to a certain degree, and calls for the extra care of the soil that this condition demands. The hazard increases very rapidly with increase in pot diameter, until, in the writer's opinion, it becomes prohibitive at seven inches.

What this means is that most well grown polyploid violets (Duponts, Amazons, Supremes and the like) will wind up in five or six inch pots fairly early in their blooming career. Five and six inch pots quite definitely should be of the shallow, squatty or azalea type. In the four inch size, either the squatty or regular type can be used according to the grower's preference without serious handicap in either case.

With non-pot bound plants, repotting should be fairly frequent, removing and replacing with all new soil that does not have roots in it. This is to insure that the soil is at all times sweet and in good condition. Soil in a pot becomes stagnant and sour much more quickly in locations where there are no live roots to maintain a transfer of liquids and fertilizer agents than it does in places where there are plenty of roots. It is also possible that the presence of roots also causes the soil to be more porous and better ventilated. This is particularly true of the soil at the bottom of the pot where excess moisture is apt to accumulate. We really should re-pot this type of plant every six months, but very few of us are that conscientious or ambitious, so we generally compromise on once a year.

It should also be borne in mind that re-potting does not necessarily mean shifting to a larger or even to the same size pot. Fairly often a plant shrinks in size, accidents, misfortunes and illnesses occur more frequently than any of us like, so once in a while a plant that was, say, over twelve inches in diameter shrinks to under nine inches. In such cases, the plant should either be thrown out or repotted in a smaller pot. As a matter of fact, repotting in a smaller pot, removing all the old soil practical is indicated as the first step toward a cure when a plant gets sickly and starts to lose leaves for no apparent reason. The old rule that the pot size should not be changed more than one size at a time only applies when the size is increasing. When the pot size is being decreased, all limitations are off

and the plant should be placed in the smallest size pot that will adequately accommodate it.

Then there is the plant with the unsightly stem. With age, all African violets gradually develop this defect as the lowest leaves gradually grow old and drop off. The grower generally accelerates this process by her grooming of the plant, removing damaged or non-symmetrical leaves. In extreme or neglected cases of this kind, the unsightly stem can only be eliminated by the Gordian Knot process of cutting off the stem and roots and starting new roots on the upper part of the plant by placing it in water to develop new roots where the stem was cut off. In less extreme cases, however, before the stem has become much more than, say, an inch long, the situation can be taken care of much more easily and simply by just repotting the plant, placing it enough lower in the new pot to put all of the stem below the surface of the soil. The plant, very accommodatingly, develops roots on that part of the stem which is newly below the soil level and soon the situation is back to normal. In most cases where the elimination of the stem is the primary reason for the repotting, no change in size of the pot is made.

The actual repotting operation is a simple one. The professional way of removing the plant from the old pot is to turn the plant upside down and then, with one hand holding the pot and the other placed in a receptive position under the soil, rap the now downward edge of the inverted pot sharply vertically down against the projecting edge of a table or something of the sort. The ball of soil drops cleanly out of the pot and into the hand held below the upturned pot to catch it. There are only two precautions to take. The soil in the pot should be at least moderately moist. Too dry soil sticks to the sides of the pot and is liable to break apart in the middle, the top half of the soil coming out into the expectant hand, while the bottom half remains in the pot. The other precaution is to see that the sharp rap is sharp enough. No pussy footing goes, the edge of the pot must be rapped with abandon.

This method works fine with small plants which have only a few leaves to interfere with the even tenor of the process but in larger plants where the grower does not want to break a single leaf and particularly where the brittle leaves of the Duponts and their ilk are involved, quite often this procedure seems too venture - some for the average amateur's disposition and nerve. She quite often gets out an old case knife and pushes it down between the inside of the pot and the outside of the soil at various places around the periphery of the pot until she has loosened the bond between the soil and the pot. Then she uses the knife as a pry to gradually lift the soil out of the pot. This method is messier, more bunglesome and much slower than the professional's, but it feels safer and is much easier on the nerves. So the amateur fairly often seems willing to accept the professional's scorn in the interest of a feeling of security.

After the plant is out of the pot, all of the loose soil is removed that can be taken off without seriously disturbing the roots. No attempt is made to get out any soil that is seriously entangled inside the root mass and the aim is to do as little damage to the roots as possible while getting out all the old soil that can be removed without hurting the roots. The plant is then centered in a fresh pot, the drainage hole of which has been properly prepared with gravel, broken crockery or sphagnum moss to insure adequate drainage, and new soil is put in where required and firmly tamped down. Care must be taken to leave space at the top of the pot to permit of easy watering — filling the pot too full of soil is a fairly common mistake. A very thorough watering completes the repotting process. In all cases clean, freshly sterilized pots are used, and in no case, even where the size of the pot is not changed, should the plants be put back into the pots which they or other plants have just been taken out of.

There is no particular season for repotting. The old time experienced grower will look over her plants and spot the ones that should be repotted as soon as they need it. For her, repotting is a continuous process, some plants being repotted all the time with the result that it never piles up as a major or big chore. Other people like to do it during the comparatively quiet seasons between the main blooming periods. They start their repotting after the spring blooming season so that the plants can go through the summer and be all set for the fall bloom, or else they start rather late in the fall so that the plants can go through the winter and be all set for a rushing season in the spring. Actually any time, winter or summer, spring or fall, when your plants need it and you are in the mood, is the time to start repotting.

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HELPFUL HINTS

Alice G. Watters, Lancaster, N. B., Canada

Did you ever try using your thin, worn bath towels as aprons when working with your plants? They are very convenient and are good to wipe your hands on if the telephone rings, or there are other interruptions.

VACATION HELP

When planning a vacation and figuring ways to keep your African violet plants in good condition while you are away, did you ever use sponges? Almost everyone has plenty of sponges around, and they can be used under the flower pots to keep the pots moist. Also, you might try a thick layer of newspapers in the bathtub with sponges on top of that to put your plants on. They should stay nice and moist while you are vacationing.

THE END

SARAN WRAP TO THE RESCUE

Helen Thompson, Ottawa, Canada

An African violet plant was sent to me while I was away on vacation. On my return home I opened the parcel and found the plant in rather a sad condition.

I watered it, giving it small amounts at a time, and then covered it with a glass bowl, leaving a little air space at the bottom. It improved slightly but was still very limp, so something else had to be done. I put it on its side on a piece of Saran Wrap and put the leaves straight up, then rolled it up like a parcel, leaving a small space at the top open for air.

In about ten days I took the Saran Wrap off, and the leaves were quite firm. I did not need to give it any more water while it was wrapped up, as I had watered it before wrapping.

The plant is growing beautifully now, and is full of buds.

THE END

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NOTE — The manufacturers of the popular FloraCart are happy to again present a FloraCart (Model CA2 complete unit) as an award at the National Convention to be held in Rochester, New York — April 24, 25, 26, 1958.

CLASS — Three specimen plants (1 true purple, 1 pink, and 1 white, any variety) scoring the highest points. Each plant must score at least 85 points. These plants are to be entered in the regular classes for true purples, pinks, and whites.

PREVIOUS WINNERS —

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- 1954 — Mrs. E. L. Perdue, Donaldson, Tennessee.
- 1955 — Rev. Harold L. Thompson, Birmingham, Michigan.
- 1956 — Mrs. L. A. Beck, St. Joseph, Missouri.
- 1957 — Mrs. J. R. Bush, Muncie, Kansas.

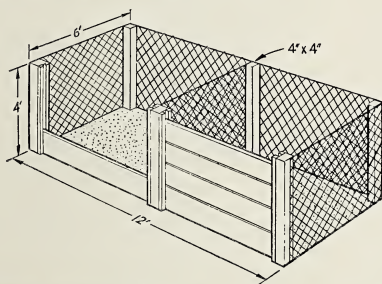
Compost Bins You Can Build Yourself

Reprinted with permission of California Spray-Chemical Corporation from the "Ortho Garden Book."

Garden soils are constantly in need of humus — organic matter that opens up the soil, aerates it, enriches it, and helps it retain moisture. The best source of this humus is compost material — decomposed leaves, grass cuttings, and other leafy material taken from your own garden.

Composting is fairly simple. Here's what you have to do:

1. Build a compost bin like one of these illustrated below — or establish a compost pile. Locate it near water and make it accessible by wheelbarrow to other parts of the garden. Bins are best made in two or three sections — so you can be building compost on one side, using composted material from the other.



2. Start with a compacted five inch layer of organic matter.

3. Spray this organic layer with Ortho-Gro Liquid Plant Food at label dilution and follow with Orthorix Spray at label dilution. The Ortho-Gro starts bacterial action and the Orthorix helps retain fertilizer values. Don't combine these products.

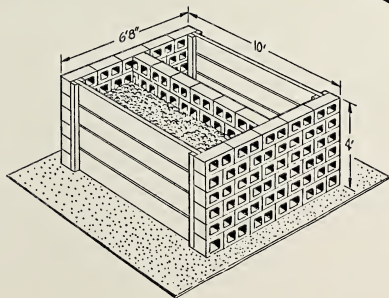
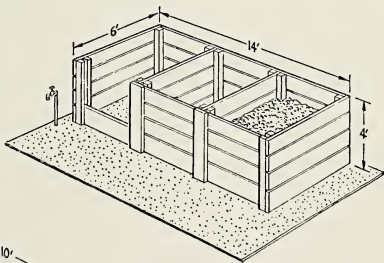
4. Cover the organic material with a two inch layer of soil.

5. Repeat this layering until the pile is about three or four feet deep.

6. Keep it moist and turn it over with a spade about every three or four weeks during the summer to hasten decomposition. It should be ready to use in three to six months.

Expanded metal. This is a simple bin made to sit right on the ground. Use 4 by 4 redwood or cedar posts for uprights. Use expanded metal, chain link, or other tight-mesh metal fencing material for sides (fastened to the wood by heavy galvanized staples). All give excellent air circulation—which is helpful for composting. Make the front of redwood or cedar 2 by 6's.

Rough redwood. A 3-bin compost which enables you to move material from one to another, always keeping one empty for new cuttings. Use redwood or cedar 4 by 4's for uprights, 2 by 6's for sides. Front boards should be easily removable. Concrete apron keeps area neater, makes it easy to turn over material.



Hollow blocks. In this bin, hollow masonry blocks are set on concrete apron to form I-shaped structure — removable redwood or cedar 2 by 6's are used to form front and back. Open blocks provide excellent air circulation. Hose bib adjacent to bin makes it easy to keep your composting material moist.

GIBBERELIC ACID

Geraldine D. Coleman, Beverly Hills, California

My first knowledge of Gibberellic Acid was a small, laconic announcement in the Sunday paper almost a year ago that Dr. Anton Lang, Dept. of Botany at U. C. L. A. was using it in some experiments to promote more and earlier bloom in plants. Upon contacting him I learned of the comparative newness of the use of Gibberellic Acid, and that because of its scarcity, Dr. Lang was using it in a limited area. In other words he had tried it on aster-type plants with success, but had not yet tried it on plants of the physical structure of the African violet. He then gave me two different solutions of the acid (to be kept refrigerated), many directions as to how to use it and many warnings, mainly not to use it on my choice plants but on some I could discard, since he could not guarantee any results.

What could I discard? Like everything else, all my Saintpaulias were too precious to risk even one of them, but I finally settled on two very old varieties — Blue Boy and Jessie, of which I had enough to make a controlled experiment. One each of the varieties was my control and the other plants were treated as shown in the enclosed copy of a report I submitted to Dr. Lang. Because of the difficulty in obtaining the Gibberellic Acid I limited my applications to a few drops in the centre of each treated plant at prescribed times.

Meanwhile I read up on Gibberellic Acid to find out what I could about it. It is derived from a parasitic fungus (first noted about 30 years ago in the Orient) which caused the "crazy disease" in rice. Extracts from the fungus (*Gibberella fujikuroi*) cause similar symptoms in plants, namely elongation of the growing stem and leaves. It apparently delays cell-wall maturity permitting repeated cell divisions and thus, accelerated growth. Its present greatest use seems to be in the commercial vegetable field where increased rate of growth naturally means a greater financial return.

Here is the report I submitted to Dr. Lang at the end of seven months experimentation.
For Dr. Lang, Department of Botany, U. C. L. A.
Report on use of Gibberellic Acid on African violets in hopes of producing early bloom —
G. Coleman.

For the test, 8 plants were used, 4 of Jessie (upright growth, plain green leaf) and 4 of Blue Eyes (flatter, rosette growth, plain darker leaf). The plants were labeled as follows:
One each of A. Left for normal growth

B. 2 drops 10 solution daily — 10 p.p.m. (mg/lt)

C. 2 drops of 50 solution daily — 50 p.p.m.

D. 2 drops of 50 solution every 2 days — 50 p.p.m. (i.e. parts per million)

The experiment was begun 10/21/56, the plants in an east window, all being fed and watered as usual, the drops of Gibberellic Acid being the only difference in treatment. The notes given below are naturally abridged to the highlights, for convenience in reporting.

10/21/56 — Experiment begun.

10/26/56 — New leaves appearing in center of each plant.

10/29/56 — Blue eyes, B, C and D, each showing signs of all leaves beginning to pull upwards rather than outwards.

11/ 2/56 — Blue eyes C showing leaf axil activity. All over stronger growth in C for both Jessie and Blue eyes. Jessie A and Blue eyes A growing at normal slow rate and typical fashion for these plants.

11/17/56 — Jessie C and Blue Eyes C have many bumps in leaf axils (normally would be sign of bud development) all bumps rather elongated than rounded. Centers of treated plants all drawn up close and long — outer leaves following suit.

11/18/56 — During this next month a blossom booster (with fertilizer) program was followed — a program which should produce buds in 8-10 weeks.

12/27/56 — A plants — Blue eyes open and flat — Jessie small but upright — B, C and D bunched very tight in center.

12/28/56 — Jessie B and Blue Eyes D both died in last week, I think of crown-rot.

1/ 5/57 — Stopped treatment for awhile. Plants B, C and D show definite elongation of center stem to as much as 3" (Blue eyes C) with wide spaces between each leaf stem. New leaves coming out are elongated, smaller and deformed in some cases. Leaves more pointed, leaf stems much longer in proportion. Plants drawn up straight rather than spread out. No signs of flower buds yet.

1/10/57 — During this time each plant was de-

2/20/57 — potted to see roots. In each case, B, C and D root development seemed behind leaf production. Perhaps a root food should be used to give

adequate root production at the same time.

3/15/57 — Buds forming on Jessie A and Blue Eyes A, but so far no signs of such on B, C and D.

4/ 4/57 — Jessie C and D still small in development, but main stem is about 3" tall. Leaves very small and pointed with what may be sucker or bud development in leaf axils (i.e. just 2 very grass-like leaf blades showing in some leaf axils). Blue Eyes B is similar in development to above. Blue Eyes C has 4" main stem with many "lumps" on it — leaf axil development is about the same. Leaves larger but with same tendency to pointedness. Treated plants show strong desire for light — stems twist and bend at growing point to reach maximum light. Flower buds well formed on Jessie A and Blue Eyes A.

Conclusions

Since the experiment has only been in process for 6 months, I don't think any final conclusions can be made. However — under ordinary house conditions, and using the Gibberellic Acid as I did, the results were not what I hoped for. It seems that all the plant energy has gone into growing up rather than into any side development. The plants are definitely changed in form, in stem and leaf shape. It would be interesting to see if, when the flower buds do develop, they too have been changed in shape and/or color.

Note

I did use a couple of drops of 50 sol. on two small Saintpaulias which were just "sitting" and it seemed to start their center growth, but I cannot draw any conclusion from this since I did not use any control (12/17/56).

End of Report

It may be observed that I was not too happy with the results, since there were no signs of flower-buds — which was my main aim.

Meanwhile Dr. Lang had been able to obtain greater supplies of Gibberellic Acid and we determined on trying a wider application. This time I was to spray some African violets with varying concentrations and observe the results and I used over 200 of my precious smaller plants. Some were placed in an outdoors sheltered porch, some in a terrarium (to simulate greenhouse conditions) on the same porch, some indoors under a fluorescent light and others indoors in window light. In each case the plants were divided to be sprayed with solutions of varying degrees, namely clear water, 10 p.p.m., 20 p.p.m., 25 p.p.m., 50 p.p.m., 100 p.p.m., and 250 p.p.m. The plant groups were fine-sprayed with their respective solutions on April 15, 1957 and again on May 2, 1957. In each case (except for the terrarium where it was unnecessary) the

plants were mist-sprayed with clear warm water on 3 successive days to ensure solution penetrating the leaf surfaces, since the humidity here is fairly low.

Careful observation to date (July 1, 1957) shows no appreciable startling progress on the part of the plants. Indeed the results seem to follow those of the earlier experiments — the plant stems and leaves elongating as before and the development in the leaf axils being of 2 thread-like leaves, but no flower buds as yet.

Thus far then, my conclusions have been that African violets can get along very well without Gibberellic Acid — in fact my controls are lovely plants which are not to be ashamed of, but I am inclined to hide the majority of my experimental plants — and with so many of them, it is quite a problem. However, as I stated in my earlier report, this experiment has not been carried on long enough to know what the long term results might be. I do know that, for me, the treated plants in all cases have not bloomed or tried to bloom so far, that any leaves I have taken off the experimental plants have shown no desire to root in any medium, and that the overall shape of the plants have changed to a marked degree, losing the pleasing crown-growth characteristics and becoming tall, spindly and elongated with narrow, lengthened leaves.

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Mary Margaret Odom

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MRS. W. H. ODOM

411 East Rea

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A SAINTPAULIA PIONEER

Mrs. Ted Lamach, Colville, Washington

My grandfather pioneered into Nebraska, my father pioneered into Montana, and now, four years after moving from Montana to this locality, I feel I too am a pioneer.

In the field of African violets I am truly a pioneer here, having found that our dear little house plant friend is all but unknown. If it is known, the majority of the local residents are afraid to try to raise it, or have tried and failed.

In the four years that I have been here, I have given away hundreds of young plants, have handed out reams of all the growing facts I know about our violet friend, have encouraged and glowingly praised his qualities as a devoted little house plant, and still continue to do so.

I have also been quite discouraged by some of the reports the women have brought back to me as to how their plants grew for them, or amused at their attempts, and have stood in awe that anyone could so mistreat any plant and expect it to even live, let alone grow and bloom. Violets

are admittedly not the pansies they were once thought to be, but one must and should give them a fighting chance.

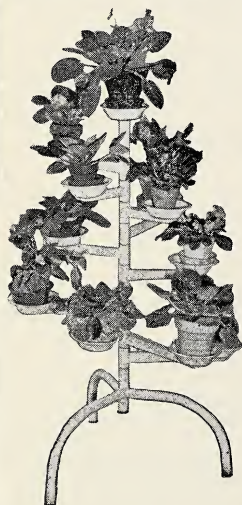
I have called at various homes to try and find the cause of the troubles, and have found: the plant at least four feet from a window or source of any light; kept standing in cold water continually; placed on a cold, drafty window sill; unwatered for days to the point where it was droopy and limp; the foliage so dust covered that the beautiful green did not show, if it has managed to keep its green color; to name but a few of the answers to, "My violet just won't grow and bloom, why?"

My persistence in pioneering for this plant continues, and will continue until we move away. Perhaps by then I will have advanced its place in a few homes.

At the present time I am still a novelty. When I am introduced as the one who is raising African violets, the women still stare at me, or throw up their hands and back off. Recently I had a man ask me, "What is an African violet?"

Really, I am finding it fun, but it takes stamina, patience, and courage to be an African violet pioneer.

THE END



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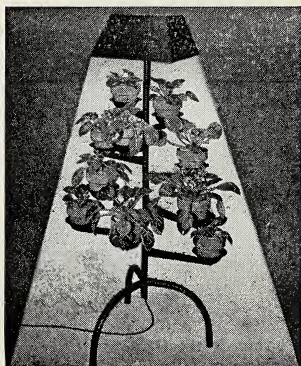
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THE EFFECT OF TEMPERATURE OF THE ROOTING MEDIUM UPON ROOT AND SHOOT FORMATION

Richard F. Stinson and Richard S. Lindstrom, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich.

Journal Article No. 1977, Michigan Agriculture Experiment Station

Cuttings of Saintpaulias are often propagated without the use of additional heat in the propagation medium. This study was undertaken to determine whether the use of additional "bottom heat" might speed propagation. Results indicate that a propagation medium temperature of 75° to 80°F., with an air temperature of 65°F., will reduce the time from the sticking of cuttings until they are ready to be potted by four to sixteen days, depending upon the variety.

Unrooted cuttings of the Saintpaulia varieties Blue Peak, Royal Purple, Pink Cushion, and Star Girl, donated by West Side Greenhouses, Inkster, Michigan, were stuck in medium grade silica sand on April 5, 1956.

The sand was contained in water-tight crocks which were submerged to within one inch of the rim in controlled-temperature water tanks. The propagation medium temperatures were maintained at 65°, 70°, 75° and 80°F., plus or minus 2°F. Twenty cuttings of each variety were used at each temperature. The greenhouse temperature was 65°F. The cuttings were examined every two days to determine the number of days until roots were one-fourth inch long and shoots were one-fourth inch long.

The following tables show the results. The figures are averages for twenty cuttings.

TABLE 1. Days from sticking cuttings until roots 1/4 inch long.

Variety	65°	70°	75°	80°
Blue Peak	20	20	16	16
Royal Purple	17	16	16	16
Pink Cushion	17	16	18	16
Star Girl	24	23	17	17

From table 1 it may be seen that the time of rooting of varieties Royal Purple and Pink Cushion were affected only slightly by higher medium temperatures. Blue Peak, however, rooted four days faster at 75° and 80°F. than at 65° or 70°F., while Star Girl rooted about seven days faster at a medium temperature of 75° or 80°F. compared to 65° or 70°F.

TABLE 2. Days from sticking cuttings until shoots 1/4 inch long.

Variety	65°	70°	75°	80°
Blue Peak	*58+	50	42	41
Royal Purple	*58+	43	41	41
Pink Cushion	*58+	42	44	42
Star Girl	*58+	45	42	44

* Only about one-half of the cuttings at 65°F. had formed shoots by the conclusion of the test.

Reprinted with permission

It may be seen from table 2 that 65°F. was not a sufficiently high propagation medium temperature to result in rapid shoot formation. There was little difference in time for shoot formation for the varieties Royal Purple, Pink Cushion and Star girl at 70°, 75°, and 80°F. It took about nine days longer for the variety Blue Peak to form shoots at 70° than at a medium temperature of 75° or 80°F.

To reduce variables in the test, the cuttings were not fertilized at the time of root formation, although this is a recommended practice and would have resulted in faster shoot formation.

Results of this study indicate that a propagation medium temperature of 75°F. with an air temperature of 65°F. is optimum for root formation and shoot development of several Saintpaulia varieties.

THE END

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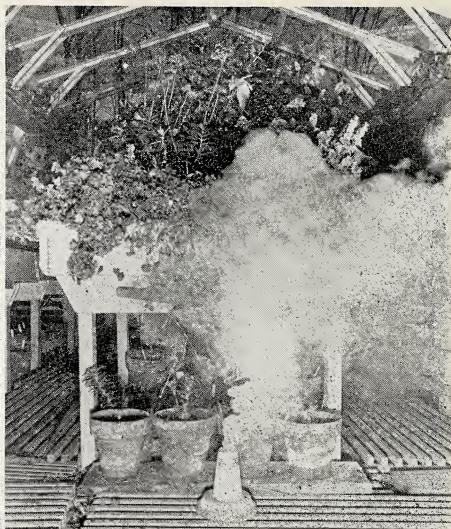
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GET RID OF THOSE BUGS

Reprinted from September-October, 1956 *Underglass*



Light smoke fumigant with sparklers and leave before the clouds are released. Photographs show how the fumigant will fill the greenhouse and spread over and through the plants



It's a GOOD IDEA to clean up and fumigate your greenhouse in fall before you fill it with plants. First, clear off shelves and remove everything from under benches where insects usually take refuge. If you didn't paint your greenhouse this summer, scrub shelves and benches with a good disinfectant. (A solution of one ounce of copper sulfate crystals to a gallon of water is effective.)

If you have a free-standing greenhouse that is still empty, you can — for an extra-thorough job — use quadruple doses of smoke fumigants like Plantfume 103, or others especially lethal to spider mites or aphids. But, if you have already moved your plants into the greenhouse, stick to dosages recommended by the manufacturer. Light smoke fumigants with sparklers and get out of the greenhouse before they start smoking.

Do not use fumigants in a greenhouse attached to your house for fumes seep through the smallest cracks and, of course, make the air in your home unsafe for a time.

Regular and thorough spraying — covering upper and lower leaf surfaces — will do a good

job. You can use an all-purpose spray containing malathion to control aphids, mealy bug, red spider, scale, white fly, and many other insects. Zineb will take care of fungus diseases and blight; sulphur is effective against mildew. Isotox, N.N.O.R. Garden Spray, Spi-tox, and Triogen No. 2 are good for greenhouse use. Of course, with any of these you should use ordinary safety precautions. Avoid breathing in any mist or dust.

Parathion is a good all-purpose insecticide, but if you use it, wear a respirator and protect all exposed parts of your body. Red spider mites resist parathion, but you can lick them with miticides such as Aramite or Dimite.

If you like to mix your own spray material, here are proportions that are effective and safe. To one gallon of water, add 2 level tablespoons 25 per cent malathion wettable powder; 1 tablespoon zineb; 1 tablespoon wettable sulphur; and 1 teaspoon soap powder as a spreader.

POTTING PARTY

Madeleine C. Rafferty, Gardner, Massachusetts

Have you ever been to a Potting Party? If not, you must plan one right away because it is so much fun and most profitable. Be sure that you have plenty of plantlets that need repotting, then ask three of four devoted lovers of Saintpaulia to come over some afternoon or evening.

If the "girls" should appear without their working clothes, you must provide them with some protection, such as a smock or pinafore. As hostess you are already in slacks or dungarees.

Remember to appoint a supervisor or an inspector, in case there is one too many to fit around the kitchen table where the container of properly prepared soil (usually a discarded dishpan or roaster) is the centerpiece and everyone can dig in.

Now the plantlets are brought in and the work begins; one separating, one filling the two and one-quarter inch pots, one marking, and presto! the production line is in full operation.

To keep your helpers happy, the aroma of hot angel gingerbread in the oven permeates the air. When you run out of materials, after two or three hours, they are happy to partake of your delicious treat with a cup of tea.

Never allow these good friends to go home empty-handed for, by now, they have no doubt made up their minds which violet they would like to possess.

P.S. You must try to get African violet napkins to use when you serve the refreshments.

The best defense against greenhouse pests is an effective prevention program. Admit only pest-free plants, obtain healthy stock from reliable sources, and plant wilt-and disease-resistant varieties.

Remove and discard all dried or diseased foliage and flowers every day. Clean and sterilize dirty pots and tools. Do not splash foliage while watering, to avoid transmitting soil and airborne diseases. Water in the morning so that if any foliage is wet it will dry before temperatures drop at night. This helps prevent mildew.

Ventilate adequately and keep vents and doors screened against insects. Learn to recognize pests when they first attack, and isolate infected plants immediately. Start treatment just as soon as trouble arises, before pests make headway, and continue treatment until control is complete.

UPSTAIRS OR BASEMENT

Mrs. Scott Rader, Knoxville, Illinois

Like a lot of other African violet growers, I do not have a basement in which to keep my plants, but as I had a large extra room that we were not using downstairs, it became my violet room. At first the room was kept at the same temperature as the other rooms. My plants did not have a good color, grew very slowly, and were dry very soon after watering. My friend suggested that I try spraying with warm water in the evening. That became quite a chore and left me with a sore arm most of the time, because I now had a number of violets. However, while I was doing this my plants looked much better.

Then I called on my friend who had hers in the basement and upstairs. The ones she had in the basement seemed to be more lively than those upstairs, and the blooms seemed to last longer.

We decided that my room was too warm, so I shut off the register and hung heavy drapes at the double doors. There is just enough heat coming into the room from the other rooms to keep it at an even temperature. On warm days a window is left slightly open so that the plants will have fresh air. I keep containers filled with water in the room, and this supplies the needed humidity.

So experiment a little — try them in another place if they do not appear to be happy where you have them. African violets are very vocal if you will listen to them. They will tell you where they want to be. If they are not doing well where you have them move them around. Check the humidity and the amount of heat in the room. They may be trying to grow in a location that they do not like and a change will do them and you a lot of good.

MAKE YOURS A LIVING CHRISTMAS GIFT

Daisy Jones, Memphis, Tennessee

In checking over your Christmas Shopping List consider African violets as a "living gift" for some one dear to you. Perhaps there are members of your family, or friends and relatives who enjoy growing African violets and you have heard them remark that they would like to add more varieties to their collection or desire a particular color. It should be comparatively easy to grant their wish because there are so many ways you can use these marvelous house plants as gifts.

A white reindeer-drawn sleigh planted with the variety Sleigh Bells, or any variety, could be used. For the coffee table a ten inch giraffe standing over a small blooming violet would be a conversation piece. A plastic bread box with twenty-five or thirty leaves of new varieties, put down to root, should be full of plantlets for Christmas delivery to a friend in your home town. A pair of hand made, hand painted sachet bags could hold a packet of African violet seeds for those who desire to try their luck at growing violets from seed.

If your friend lives hundreds of miles from you, send a Christmas card and gift check, and enclose newest price lists of African violets, letting the recipient select her own varieties.

An eight inch strawberry jar planted with four or five violets ready to bloom would surely make someone happy. These should be in pastel colors. A Madonna with side-plant container

could be planted with the beautiful double White Madonna, or if you have a double Alma Wright it would be beautiful on a friend's mantel during the holidays.

An eight or ten inch brandy snifter planted with one small blooming double lavender violet would bring an exclamation of delight from the person who received it. If you want to have a lot of fun with a friend who is a stickler for registered named varieties, purchase Carolyn Rector's newest 1957 book and give it along with two or three mystery violets. Tell your friend to search for their correct names. For the young friend who is expecting the stork, you might purchase a ceramic stork container and deliver it to her with light blue and pale pink blooming violets.

A surprise African violet shower at Christmas time for the club president would be delightful, each member giving a different variety wrapped in a pink paper doilie. If some club member is confined to her home and can not attend the December meeting, members could drop by in groups of three or four with Christmas wrapped violets, and stay only a few minutes to say "Hello, Merry Christmas, hurry and get well."

For the December African Violet Club meeting members could exchange new and rare African violets. This would help them to increase their collection.

There are many interesting and unusual ways in which you can give African violets as "Living Christmas Gifts." There is no surer way to make people smile and to bring them happiness than to give them African violets.

THE END

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CAPTURED VIOLETS

Mrs. M. J. Hester, Florence, Alabama

Violets are beautiful, which, of course, is a trite phrase. The African violet is a flower we can have at all seasons in our homes, and it lends itself well to the decorative scheme, which has been proven in the fine china, textiles, etc. So many people have combined the two hobbies of African violets and rug hooking, and, as both are acts of creating beauty, why not capture African violets and use them on our rugs.

Miss Rebecca Andrews of Walnut Ridge, Arkansas, drew the pattern of this rug and I hooked it, sitting on my violet porch and choosing the colors from real live violets as they grow.

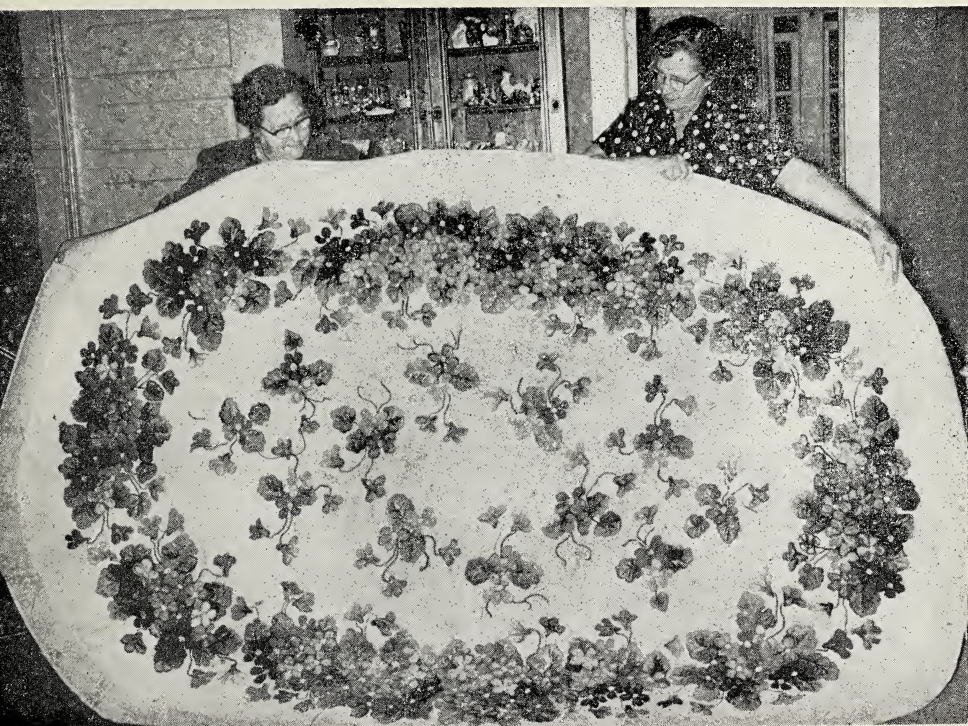
The rug is six feet by nine feet, has blossoms of all the African violet colors toning from the

lightest of tints to the darkest shades with a crumpled tuck beneath them as an under-shadow, and rosetted leaves around the blossoms. It is made from cut strips of woolen material, from blended swatches many of which I dyed myself to achieve the colors I wanted.

This rug has not been entered in any Fairs, but on other rugs I have entered in local Fairs I have won prizes. I teach rug hooking, and since I am past president of the Muscle Shoals African Violet Society many of my friends are hooking violets, making large rugs, small rugs, foot stools, and even pictures hooked with African violets.

THE END

Mrs. M. J. Hester and her friend Mrs. R. B. Saunders look with pride at Mrs. Hester's beautiful hand hooked rug with artistically arranged clusters of African violet blossoms and leaves. Both Mrs. Hester and Mrs. Saunders are members of the Muscle Shoals African Violet Society of Florence, Alabama.



CHAFF FROM CRICKEN FARM



Vera Covert, Amsterdam, New York

Hi there, Neighbor! Hope you had a pleasant summer, and both you and your plants are all well and happy. Did you travel anywhere and collect a few new ones? Or maybe you did a bit of trading with some friends . . . perhaps even purchased some new varieties. I do hope you added some different Gesneriads to your collection.

You know, the longer I live, the stronger grows my belief that everyone should try growing at least one or two of these cousins. I have been collecting some through the past months and while I'm still studying the growing habits and preferences of different ones, I feel they are more interesting in many respects than the more familiar African violet. I find some less tolerant of light . . . some more tolerant.

One of my more difficult personalities is the *Sinningia tubiflora*. I was given the small, potato-like tuber by Paul Arnold. This was planted with due respect and pride. I knew when it bloomed, I would enjoy its fragrant blossom . . . and that is something to anticipate in the Gesneriad world. Well, it grew and flourished like the green bay tree . . . but nary a blossom did I see. So I cut it back and in due time, after a nap, it woke up and started growth again. Actually, it isn't a handsome plant. The leaves look a bit like sage. This time I changed the light exposure and kept it more on the dry side. Results were most gratifying. A bud at last! (Personal note to the editor: "Shame on you, Alma, for pitching yours in the trash can!")

Another captivating little elf is *Sinningia ousilla*. I was given a plant of this and at once became fascinated with this midget's determination to self-pollinate, sow its seeds, and raise a crop of wee babies without any help from me. I never saw such a busy little plant. It had all the energy of an atom bomb. The blossom is so perfectly formed yet only about the size of a fly's wing. Such a contrast to *Tussacia*, with its big, showy growth and gaudy orange bloom.

The *Columnas* are worthy of your interest. I think most of them are trailers, altho Paul Arnold lists several upright types.

The five that I have are as follows: *Allenii*, small oval leaves and large red flowers; *Banksii*, slightly larger leaves, waxy with red veining on

back, orange flowers; *Gloriosa superba*, small, velvety leaves, orange flowers; *Linearis*, long, narrow leaves, clear pink flowers, and *Tulalae flava*, soft velvety leaves, yellow flowers. This one is a sturdy trailer. I have snipped off so many shoots, yet it keeps right on making new ones. One day I stripped several small leaves from the bottom of a shoot I wanted to root and just to see what would happen, I set them in my tray of coarse Zonolite, covering them with a small glass. None were larger than my thumbnail. Every one rooted. These five are all trailers. My list shows these also in the trailer type: *Arguta*, pointed leaves, red flowers; *Hirta*, green stems with red hairs and *Microphylla*, small leaves, scarlet flowers.

In the upright type there are several listed: *Affinis*, green leaves with red hairs, orange flowers; *Lepidocaula*, scarlet flowers with yellow throats; *Magnifica*, large scarlet flowers; *Sanguinea*, striking leaves, hairy flowers (large plant) and *Verecunda*, compact plant, leaves red beneath, yellow flowers. So you have quite a large selection in this field.

Next, I will name some interesting ones that I saw at Botanical Gardens in Montreal. There were several *Rechsteinerias*: *Cardinalis*, scarlet flowers and large velvety leaves; *Lineata*, intense orange red flowers; *Macropoda*, darker red flowers; *Splendens*, flowers more orange red and *Sellovii*, tall plant pink flowers borne on long stem. Then Paul lists a silver leaf one, a new Brazilian species, named *leucotricha*.

Of the *Kohlerias*, I liked *Bogotensis*, *Hirsutum* and the dwarf one, *Lindeniana*. Another fascinating plant was *Koellikeria erinoides*, a dwarf rosette type with spikes of tiny bell like flowers, creamy white with rosy streaks.

Others that I admired were *Isoloma ceciliae*, *Streptocarpus saxorum*, *Chirita hamosa*, *Allopecurus repens*, a trailing species, and *schlimi*, with flowers of red and yellow. *Petrocosmea Kerrii*, from Indo-China has a velvety leaf and is upright in growth. *Saintpaulia goetzeana* was another interesting compact plant.

While talking about these other relatives, we must not leave out the better known ones such as *Achimenes*. These are most satisfactory as basket plants and come in such a wide range of colors that you are sure to find any number that

TELL YOU WHAT

NEW MEMBERSHIPS and RENEWALS — should be sent to the treasurer, Myrtle Radtke, P. O. Box 116, Madisonville Station, Cincinnati 27, Ohio or to P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tennessee. Both addresses will reach Mrs. Radtke. Make all checks payable to the African Violet Society of America, Inc.

NEW MEMBERSHIPS and RENEWALS of AFFILIATED CHAPTER MEMBERS — should be sent to Maxine Wangberg, 14½ N. Central Avenue, Harlowton, Montana. Please pay your dues through your Chapter treasurer if you are a member of a Chapter.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS — send your old address at least 30 days before the issue with which it is to take effect. Send old address with the new, enclosing if possible your address label.

BACK ISSUES OF MAGAZINE — write the African Violet Society of America, Inc., P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tennessee for a list of those in stock. Not all magazines are available as back issues. Do not send money until you get the list. Make check payable to the African Violet Society of America, Inc. Cost \$1.00 per copy.

ADVERTISING RATES — are available from Floyd L. Johnson, 183 W. Gibson Street, Canandaigua, New York.

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MAGAZINE BINDERS — write the African Violet Society of America, Inc., P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tennessee.

JUDGING SCHOOLS — for information about holding a judging school to become a qualified judge write Ruth G. Carey, 3900 Garden Drive, Knoxville 18, Tennessee.

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HOMING PIGEON — while this correspondence service is no longer sponsored by the African Violet Magazine, Pigeon groups already organized and in operation may continue their flights under their director's guidance or under their own direction, if they so desire.

CLUB NEWS — send all club news to the Club News editor, Maxine Wangberg, 14½ N. Central Avenue, Harlowton, Montana.

SHOW NEWS — send all show news reports to the Show -- News and Views editor, Eunice Fisher, Route 3, Box 284, Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

PLANT REGISTRATION — write Constance Hansen, Box 302, Lafayette, California.

DEADLINE DATES FOR MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS — for September issue, June 1st; December issue, September 1st; March issue, December 1st; June issue, March 1st.

PHOTOGRAPHS — cannot be returned unless by previous agreement with the editor.

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY PIN — may be purchased from the Society pin chairman, E. Pearl Turner, 828 Kenmore Boulevard, Akron, Ohio.

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COLOR SLIDES and CLUB PROGRAMS — write librarian, Maisie Yakie, P. O. Box 674, Port Arthur, Texas.

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IMPORTANT NOTICE -- MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION BLANKS

Will all members both amateur and commercial who have Membership Application Blanks please change the amount of membership dues to the correct figure before giving them to prospective members.

Individual Membership \$4.00, Commercial Membership \$13.33, Life Membership \$66.66.

New blanks will be mailed to you if you will write for them. Please specify how many you want.

Address — African Violet Society of America, Inc., P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tennessee.

will please your fancy. This is beginning to sound like a Paul Arnold commercial . . . yet I have to say that he has the largest assortment of old and new that I know about.

If you have enough space, the *Smithianthas* are very lovely. The leaves are so velvety and rich in color and the spikes of blooms may be red, orange, rose, yellow or mottled. There is a dwarf variety also. I raised some from seed and found they were a space saver, if one must have a *Smithiantha* in the collection. Also asking for space are the *Nautilocalyx*. These have beautiful foliage, chocolate and green, and quite "bubbly" as to texture. The creamy flowers are not outstanding. They are sometimes listed as *episcias*, especially the one named *Bullatus*, with the pebbly leaves. *Lynchii* has glistening foliage. *Forgetii* has long, pointed leaf and is symmetrical.

Another nice basket plant is the *Aeschynanthus*. *Lobbianus* has very dark green leaves and scarlet flowers growing out of purple cups. I never grow tired of watching mine produce the purple cups, which start as such small items and end up in a flurry of glory. *Speciosus* has a hard waxy leaf and brilliant orange flowers on the tips of the branches.

There are many more in the Gesneriad world which I have not mentioned. Once you start searching, you will have the fun of discovering them for yourself.

And now I have a surprise for you. I have a guest . . . many of you know her or are familiar with her column "Armchair Explorer." It gives me pleasure to introduce my friend, Florence Carrell from California. It would be nice to have her tell you about some interesting seeds. So, Florence, why don't you talk to our good readers for a bit while I make a fresh pot of coffee for us.

Thank you, Vera, I'd just love to visit awhile with your African violet people. You know that I'm a member also, and do have lots of old friends among the readers. Don't make my coffee very strong and no cream or sugar please. You people in the east seem to so thoroughly enjoy your house plants, while those of us who live in the west possibly enjoy more our year-round out-door gardens. Some of us do have small greenhouses which we heat in winter and some raise a few plants inside especially the African violets, which are such a universal favorite. I used to grow many nice violets and other Gesneriads too, but of late have taken up with palms and philodendrons which I hope to have later in tubs for my patio at the ranch. I have a heated glass enclosed case where I start all seeds on a surface of vermiculite and sphagnum moss and expect to soon be planting some of the new seeds which have just arrived.

I have a darling little plant of *Corytholoma bulbosa*, which I am told is the one someone called "Brazilian Edelweiss" with silvery white foliage and grown from a large tuber. My

collector in South America is attempting to set seeds for me. My plant is slow growing, and it seems doubtful if it will ever set seeds here. Also, I recently got in a collection of Gesneriad bulbs from Brazil; it will be interesting to see what they turn into. Really, it is seeds that I prefer to get, for they can be shared with so many more people. What's the latest in the hybridizing of the African violet? Wasn't it two years ago that I imported the seed of the yellow Gesneriad "Tussacia" from Central America? I never did learn whether anyone tried to do any hybridizing with it on the African violet. As a pot plant it was a disappointment since the flowers were so short lived, but they were very bright yellow which was something. I often wish that I might find out just how all of the seeds grew and whether the plants are worthwhile or not? It seems that I must content myself with the pleasure of the finding of the seeds.

What's new in seeds right now? Well, I have just made up a new list of houseplant seeds and will send any of your members a list and a free package of mixed gloxinia seeds for a stamped envelope. The Gloxinia Society members keep me well supplied with all their surplus gloxinia seeds so that I have plenty to send out to all interested.

Some of the newest and rarest Gesneriad seeds that I managed to unearth this season are: *Alloplectus capitatus* which is a dandy one with attractive and colorful foliage, *Columnnea flava* and *Columnnea sanguinea* are both darlings with cute little leaves and nice flowers, Weismoor hybrid *Streptocarpus* are those giants so much more attractive than the usual run, *Naegelia zebрина* with the red velvet leaves and tubular spotted flowers makes such a nice bushy pot plant, and *Mitraria coccinea* and *Rhabdanthus solandri* which are more of the shrubby type. The first came from England and the latter is the only representative of the Gesneriad family native to New Zealand and was gathered there by a good friend. *Conandron ramondiioides* is an alpine from Japan, it has shooting-star like flowers. Also, there is seed of *Reichsteineria tubiflora*, *lineata*, as well as the favorite *cardinalis*, *Sinningia speciosa*, *pusilla*, *Kohleria lindenii*, some nice mixed African violet seeds, and species *Grotei* and *Tongwensis*. Of course. I have all colors in gloxinia seeds and seeds of other plants which grow nicely with Gesneriads such as *coleus*, *tetranema mexicana*, *Bertolonia maculata* and the *Calvoas*. I should mention the *Maurandia* vine which so many of the Gloxinia Society members rave about. One of my friends gathered the seeds for me in North Rhodesia and sent them along with a hand colored drawing calling my attention to the fact that the people there called it the "creeping gloxinia"; well, seldom a week goes by but someone writes to tell me how much they enjoy this dainty vine even tho it is NOT a Gesneriad. My part in the Gloxinia Society has been to search for unusual seeds for the members. Many times I never get to see or even hear what the results of my

efforts have been in flowering plants. I can guarantee that the seeds are fresh from the various collectors but cannot promise that they will all grow and do well for you. I can only hope that the members have as much fun watching and hoping for something new in plants as I do in finding the seeds.

Prices of my seeds? Oh dear, that's the part I dislike. How I wish I could finance my hobby without charging for each packet of seeds, but so far haven't found any other way. A usual packet of seeds of common kinds—or those which I have in larger supply are 25¢ per packet. The very rare kinds which I may have very limited amounts of, would be 50¢ per packet. I dislike to charge more than that—but I will mix almost any kind of seeds that you want, I don't mind it in the least, as I know many of you only wish to have one or two plants of a kind anyway.

Well, it is time I was bringing my visit to an end as I have around eighty-five chickens to feed and a large garden to water. Come out and visit be sometime and I'll let you help me hoe weeds in the garden. Thanks so much for asking me over.

Your old friend,
 Florence Carrell
 214 No. Yale
 Fullerton, California

Thanks, Florence, for your seed news. I appreciate your visit as I know you are busy. I don't like to hoe weeds . . . either here or in California, so don't wait for me on that job.

With my editor's kind indulgence, I'd like to tell you that my newest addition to the plant room is positively the prize winner and it's not even a plant. Nope . . . it is a tiny fan designed for a greenhouse. It hangs up near the ceiling, runs so quietly yet circulates air so energetically. I wish everyone of you had one. I'm a "fall guy" for answering ads in magazines, but this is better than the copy said it would be. We just put up a hook, plugged the cord in an outlet and when I felt the difference in the air, I knew mildew troubles were over . . . and for less than the

price of a new hat! It sure is a Jim-Dandy. I hit the jack-pot on this little purchase, that's for sure.

Guess that does it for now. So I'll sign off and see what is in the refrigerator for dinner. Good growing to you all.

THE END

NO BLOSSOMS

Roses are red and violets are blue

And every other conceivable hue,

But my violets have foliage so green

And seldom a blossom ever is seen.

At first I set leaves so economical

They multiplied quite astronomical.

And finally I bought some plants in bud

But my green thumb was quite a dud,

My hopes for buds had been so bright

But all my flowers had a blight.

So I just pretend I admire the leaves

And for elegant blooms I quietly grieve.

Anne Carstens,
 Beatrice, Nebraska

MY LITTLE BLUE PARAKEET

I called my Parakeet Cleo . . . He was a cutey and so sweet . . . He climbed a ladder, rang his bell, . . . His vocabulary was hard to beat.

I left his door open . . . So he could have fun and be free, . . . But one day on checking my violets . . . I suddenly cried "Woe is me."

The leaves were nibbled and full of holes . . . On my best plants, of course . . . I scolded, raved and ranted . . . But Cleo felt no remorse.

The sly but dear little rascal . . . Heeded not a word, . . . But perching on my shoulder, said . . . "Cleo's a pretty blue bird."

I finally decided I must make a choice . . . Which filled me with great distress . . . So now I have only my violets . . . And Cleo has a new mistress.

Lauretta L. Littig
 Davenport, Iowa

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 Over 350 varieties. Miniatures. Free List.
 Yellow Episcia "Tropical Topaz" and "Amazon
 White".

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 202 Main Street Reisterstown, Maryland

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE QUEEN

Clarabell La Rue, Cincinnati, Ohio

At the Cincinnati Convention Julia Bittman of Bittman's Flowers, and Reed Schuster of Reed's Weeds, both of Cincinnati, presented a delightful program of arrangements of African violet flowers. This proved most informative and educational. Included were a bride's bouquet of white Snow Prince African violets, lilies of the valley and variegated ivy, and a maid's bouquet of a pink and mauve tulle fan with a cluster of multicolored African violets tied with lengths of lilac and purple violets. To complete the wedding picture they made the mothers' corsages of purple violets centered with pink sweetheart roses tied with purple satin. Another nosegay was fashioned of many colored African violets.

For the groom's party a shotgun wedding was suggested, using a toy double-barreled shotgun fastened with a nosegay of African violets and white carnations.

To complete the bridal section there was an arrangement of an antique silver candelabra, the orifices filled with lilies of the valley, Snow Prince African violets, blue forget-me-nots, and variegated ivy.

For the senior prom Mrs. Bittman had a lovely black lace fan decorated with pink African violets and pink bouvardia.

For centerpieces the designers offered a French bread basket filled lengthwise with assorted African violets, with a grouping of Easter eggs and a bunny for the Easter season; snowballs and a Santa Claus for Christmas; grapes and nuts for Thanksgiving. A handsome three-tiered pickled pine serving tray was also used, the lower section planted completely with pink violets, the center tray filled with fresh red strawberries, and the top tier planted with episcias. For the more elegant buffet an authentic brass taffy tray was centered with square candles of powder blue, lilac, and soft pink, arranged with analogous colored flowers: purple larkspur, blue forget-me-nots, pink carnations, pink camelias, blue, lavender and purple African violets, and pink tulips.

For a contemporary room a conventional planter on a black iron tripod was filled with variegated rubber plants, aralia, episcia and red geraniums. An antique night light with a burning candle filled with sweetheart roses, pink African violets and larkspur was suggested for the bedroom, and for the bathroom, a three-tiered apothecary jar filled with shades of pink African violets and pink bouvardia, the center tier filled with pink powder puffs.

Many other centerpieces, conversation items and small type arrangements were presented,

all including African violets or made entirely of African violets.

As a climax of the program Mrs. Bittman and Mr. Schuster did a sixth century Byzantine tree four and one-half feet tall of solid African violet blooms fastened in clusters of twenty-five. Literally thousands of blooms were used. To further enhance this dramatic arrangement, tiny pink lighted tapers were added. It was a breathtaking sight.

The flowers were by courtesy of Henry Peterson. — Editor

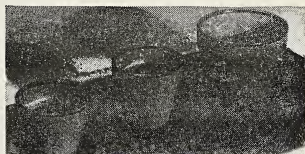
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BLUEMONT AFRICAN VIOLET SOIL AND ORGANIC GROWING MEDIUM

Steamed sterilized soil, 4 lbs., \$1.00
Organic growing medium complete, 4 lbs., \$1.00
For organic growing, phosphate and potash ground rock mix complete with exception of sand and peat, 3 lbs., \$1.00. Add postage to these prices.

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Rustburg, Virginia

WINDOVER FLOWER POTS



THE MOST BEAUTIFUL RED CLAY FLOWER POTS MADE

Squatty		Our Customers Say, "The Best I have ever seen!"	
3	in. 14 for \$2.20	Most sizes are in the lovely stopped design as pictured. Unequalled for quality. All have treated rims to protect stems and leaves of plants. Any shipping breakage replaced unless sent insured. Clay Flower Pots in Color Green, red, yellow or white baked-on enamel. Following sizes only:	
4	in. 10 for 2.20		
5	in. 6 for 2.20		
6	in. 4 for 2.20		
Semi-squatty			
3	in. 14 for \$2.20	3" semi-squatty 10 for \$2.20 4" squatty 8 for 2.20 Black Plastic Pot Saucers 2 1/2" 18 for \$1.70 3" 14 for \$1.80 4" 10 for \$1.85 5" 6 for \$1.50	
5	in. 6 for 2.20		
5 1/2	in. 5 for 2.20		
6	in. 4 for 2.20		
Standard			
1 1/2	in. 40 for \$2.20	MADE especially for African Violets with flaky leaf-mold (mostly oak) plus woodland top-soil, crushed sandstone, peat moss, woodashes, bone meal, superphosphate and charcoal. Will not pack. Sterilized with LARVICIDE to eliminate nematodes and other soil-borne troubles. Write for prices on larger quantities.	
1 3/4	in. 36 for 2.20		
2	in. 30 for 2.20		
2 1/4	in. 24 for 2.20		
3	in. 14 for 2.20		
4	in. 9 for 2.20		

WINDOVER POTTING SOIL

MADE especially for African Violets with flaky leaf-mold (mostly oak) plus woodland top-soil, crushed sandstone, peat moss, woodashes, bone meal, superphosphate and charcoal. Will not pack. Sterilized with LARVICIDE to eliminate nematodes and other soil-borne troubles. Write for prices on larger quantities.

4 lbs. \$1.15 9 lbs. \$2.25 13 lbs. \$2.85
COARSE VERMICULITE preferred by many growers over the finer Terra-Lite for rooting leaves.
8 quarts \$1.00 24 quarts \$2.00
LIFETIME WHITE PLASTIC POT LABELS, 4 1/4":
75 for \$1.00 100 for \$1.25 500 for \$5.50
EVERMARK LABEL PENCILS 20¢ each.

EVERYTHING POSTPAID EAST OF DENVER
If west of Denver, Colo. add 40¢ postage for each unit or set of pots or saucers ordered. On soil, and vermiculite write for amount of postage needed west of Denver. Sorry, no C.O.D.'s please.

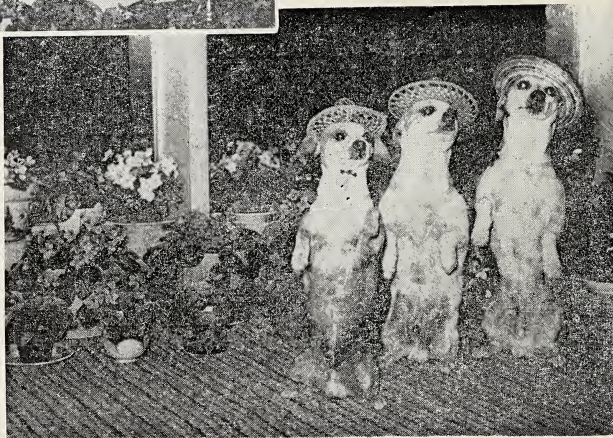
THE WINDOVER CO.

Box 3033-A Evansville, Indiana



In the living room African violets decorate the window ledges in an unusual and beautiful display.

Tom, Dick and Harry the Waddell's three pet Amer-Toys pose smartly before some of their mistress' blossom laden plants.



HOME PLANNED TO REFLECT INTERESTS

When the G. Bruce Waddells built their home at Carlsbad, California, it was arranged so that it would fit in with their interests, possessions, and pet Amer-Toys. Laid out on a slope, which is terraced up from the street to the house, the building is angled to obtain the maximum view from the living room windows. A window which faces northeast is the focal point of the living-room. This large picture window was planned by Mrs. Waddell to serve as a showcase for her outstanding collection of African violets. Individual potted plants have been placed on narrow shelves built into the window recess so they are seen with the mountains as a background, and this makes an arresting sight. By

displaying her African violets in this manner Mrs. Waddell has made these plants a vital part of her room decoration.

Additional violets bloom in conch shells and old chinaware set on shelves near the front door. A row of little plants lines the window over the kitchen sink.

The Waddells' three Amer-Toys, Tom, Dick and Harry, whose small dog kennel is built into the wall with a door opening into the living room while the main entrance is from the outside, are at liberty to come in at any time. They seem very proud to have their pictures taken with their owner's prize plants.

THE END

BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH PROGRAM

April 17, 1957

Dear Members of the
African Violet Society of America:

No doubt you appreciate the fact that the demands of the modern "African Violet Grower" are constantly increasing, and that the value of a Society lies in its ability to meet these additional demands.

Your Boyce Edens Research takes great pride in presenting facts as proof of its efficiency in keeping abreast of the times in matters concerning your cultivation of "bigger and better" African violet plants.

You have so generously supported the following research projects during the past year:

1. Dr. Howard Mills, Marshall College, Huntington, West Virginia, variation in flowering of African violets with soil type, phosphorous content of soil, and season of the year.
2. Dr. Sheldon Reed, University of Minnesota, study on genetics of the African violet.
3. The project on climate responses of the African violet at Earhart Plant Research Laboratory at the California Institute of Technology.

Because of your long experience in growing African violets, and because of your keen interest in all questions pertaining to the cultivation in general, we are planning a new research project for September 1957. And you, as members of our Society, will appreciate that our plans for research can only materialize with your continued financial support.

May we explain our intended 1957 project:

4. With your financial aid we are hoping to establish a Nematocide-Fungicide project at the New Jersey Agriculture Experiment Station. The work will be done by a graduate student under the supervision of the Department of Floriculture. Since other fields are very closely related, the Departments of Entomology and Plant Pathology will cooperate.

We know you will recognize our goal as being a beneficial one to all, to screen available fungicides and nematocides for effectiveness against fungous and nematode diseases of African violets, and to convert any positive findings into definite directions for use of the products.

Our plans are to continue the four research projects outlined, in proportion to the money contributed. The interest of each member in your club and the financial aid will directly make this new project a successful one.

We hope that you will enjoy these projects, and because of your faithful past financial aid, we feel confident that our 1957-1958 will be another successful record year.

Won't you help to see our Boyce Edens Research Project THROUGH by including this project in your fund-raising activities for 1957 and 1958?

All contributions will be very much appreciated, so mail your donations to Mrs. Nelle Berst, 434 North Williams Street, Dayton 7, Ohio.

Most sincerely,
Mrs. Nelle Berst, Chairman
Boyce Edens Research
African Violet Society of America, Inc.

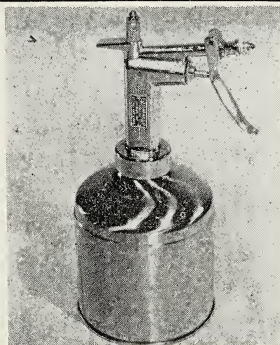
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ARNDT'S FLORAL GARDEN

Route 2 Box 336
Troutdale, Oregon

Specializing in the leading West Coast varieties. Leaves, Rooted Cuttings, Potted Clumps, Plants. Now Shipping.

Send 2¢ stamp for price list.



NEW PRECISION BUILT WATER-FOG PLANT SPRAYER

Squeeze the handle and out comes a fine water-fog mist. Moistens leaves so plants can drink. Increases humidity. One hand operation with positive trigger action pump. Fine mist to heavy spray. Sturdy bright copper base with non-corrosive nickel plated brass top. Finest professional equipment. Precision built for long uninterrupted service. Written guarantee for repair or replacement if ever needed, with 1-day service. Extra spray head for insecticides, fungicides, moth spray, etc. Extension places water-fog inside foliage and under leaves, or sprays across full width of large growing bench. Pint size Sprayer \$6.95, quart \$7.95 postpaid. 3-part tube for 8", 16", and 24" extension of spray head \$1.95 extra.

FREE CATALOG UNUSUAL HARD-TO-FIND
SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT FOR
AFRICAN VIOLETS

THE HOUSE PLANT CORNER

Box 943

Oxford, Md.

THIS IS WHY

Mrs. Lucille Reber, Dundee, Illinois

Several years ago when I started working at Kettner's Greenhouse I met Marie Schmidt; we planted petunias, tomatoes, cabbages and smelly marigolds together; sold poinsettias, Easter lilies and garden seeds; we even made corsages after much wiring and twisting. Since I like flowers and enjoy working with them, Marie asked me to join her African Violet Club. At that time she was president of it. She told me confidentially that they always have a good dessert luncheon with plenty of coffee. The good dessert luncheon was what made me decide to go. I remember I wore a suit that first meeting and it was a mighty warm day. I met a happy group of ladies, and was a member from that day on.

I bought several plants, and several of the ladies cut leaves from some of their best plants for me. I was sure I could not raise them. I was advised to plant them in vermiculite and place them on a north window sill, which is in my bedroom. They told me to be very careful not to let the vermiculite get too wet or too dry. I was to use my finger and feel for wetness to tell if they were too wet or too dry.

After much feeling and much waiting, small plants did appear, and I did not lose a leaf. The only trouble was that I had so many plants alike. I did not know what to do with them, so I gave them to my relatives. Most of these young plants died a slow death. This I never expected

to happen, for they had such a good start. I began to think that you had to belong to a club to make them grow.

Often in a violet club you hear which kind of pots to use for the healthiest plants. Plastic pots with wicks, black paper pots, pots with drains, tin cans or china cups, or clay pots are some of the many kinds recommended.

Next, you must have a good soil mixture. The most important thing for violets, you are told, is good fertilizer. There certainly are a lot of them on the market, such as Plant Marvel, Hyponex, Stimulant, New Plant Life, and capsules which are supposed to stimulate wonderful growth. But to each member, only one of them is the very best. We organize expeditions to wander in the nearby woods and fields, carrying empty pails, cans and shovels. This natural fertilizer which we gather makes a wonderful plant food, but, MOST IMPORTANT, lovely violets.

Another thing, most of our ladies like new varieties, something really different. We smuggle them into the house so that our husbands won't see them. We try to go on tours to distant greenhouses, but there must be a good restaurant along the way that has really delicious food.

After all is said and done, I do enjoy my violets and love to go to the club, and I seldom miss a meeting. Raising violets is just about the most pleasant pastime I know.

THE END

COMPOST FOR AFRICAN VIOLETS

Bess Greeley, Chicago, Illinois

When we start our compost and add the minerals, it is difficult to realize that Mother Nature is the one who takes over from then on, and that in a year's time the compost will be just right for our violets, both to grow in and to produce many blooms.

I wonder how many people realize that compost can also be used for foliar feeding? Put a quart of compost in a pail of rain water, stir well, allow to settle, then take off the top water and heat it until it is warm. Your spray is now ready to use. Once more Mother Nature has come up with something helpful for our violets.

Mother Nature bears watching more closely for she shows us how to live and grow in this world of ours.

THE END

MORE PLANTS WITH TWO FLOWER STEMS

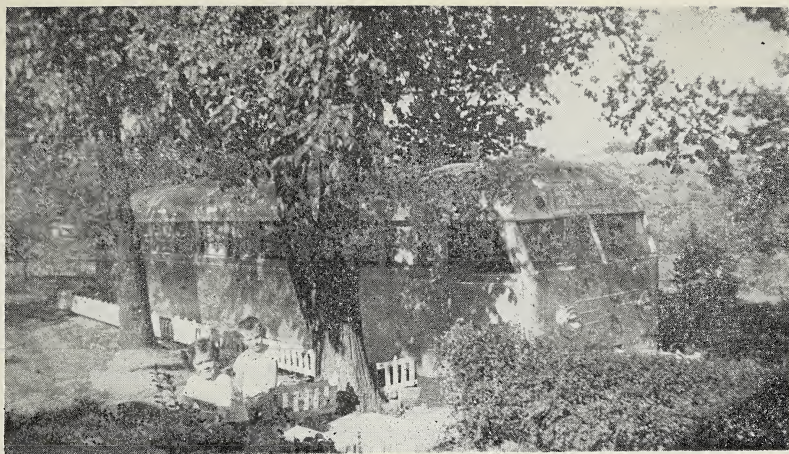
Anita Lawrence, Scotch Plains, New Jersey

In line with Dr. D. C. Nearpass' article "Two-Flower Stems Per Leaf", page 71, June 1957, I have found that Dixie Pixie, Blue Pom, Meteor, Mary Thompson and Boyce Edens also give two flower stems.

Cavalier, Double Uncle Bob and Santa Maria give me three. The third flower stem is much shorter than the other two and mostly has only one large flower on it.

I used the plant shoot form of Gibberell on these plants and was wondering if the excess of flower stems resulted from that. When the magazine came and I read the above article I also wondered if he too had used Gibberell.

THE END



Mrs. Neemann's grandchildren play on the walkway to the bus.

A BUS FOR THE VIOLETS

Some six years ago Mrs. George Neemann of Hebron, Nebraska, received a plant of Blue Boy. Soon she had a dozen violets of all colors, these became scores as she added varieties, and soon there were hundreds.

By this time the violets had spread into the dining room, living room, back and front porches, bay window, and all around the house. But, the day the violets spread into the bedroom Mr. Neemann vowed it was time to draw the line and do something about it before the family was entirely crowded out of the house.

In sheer desperation he bought an old bus which he put in the back yard, threw away the

wheels, and converted into a greenhouse. The bus is heated with a floor furnace and is now filled with more than six hundred African violets of every hue, which number includes one hundred and twenty varieties. Mrs. Neemann waters each violet every day, and is still busy planting more. She is particularly proud of the nail keg which she has fixed with violets planted in holes all around the sides, and which are thriving beautifully.

The bus greenhouse has worked out wonderfully. Mrs. Neemann says that now Mr. Neemann likes the violets as much as she does, and where they will go from here she just doesn't know.

THE END

Mrs. Neemann and her plants.



Mites and Sodium Selenate

Neil C. Miller, Penns Grove, New Jersey

Part One — To Be Continued

There is probably no subject in the whole field of African violet growing so controversial as the use of sodium selenate as a mite preventive or eliminant. On one hand are thousands of people who have used selenate successfully and feel that it is impractical to the point of foolhardiness to attempt to grow African violets without it. On the other hand are hundreds of people who have encountered difficulties in using selenate and feel it is impossible to grow African violets successfully by using it. Caught in between, in the welter of claim and counterclaim, charge and denial, accusation and refutation, half-fact and pseudo-fact, are thousands of other people who are never able to obtain the information they want and never feel free to use sodium selenate on their plants, and still never feel just right in not using it.

HISTORICAL

The insect-killing power of sodium selenate was recognized at least thirty years ago. In the early 1930's a spray containing selenium was placed on the market. It didn't last long, probably because cheaper and less poisonous materials (rotenone particularly) came onto the market about the same time. In the mid-thirties research work was done at Ohio State University on the use of sodium selenate for control of pests on woody plants such as roses. It was only mildly successful here (as it has been in all subsequent attempts to use it on woody plants) and World War II halted all development for several years.

After the end of the war there was a great upsurge in interest in African violets (as if this were new information to anybody reading this Magazine) and they quickly became an important greenhouse crop. Immediately insect pests, particularly mites, began to appear. The New York State Flower Growers Association realized the seriousness of the mite problem and the inability of sprays then available to cope with it. They asked Dr. Richard E. Blauvelt, of Cornell, to seek an answer to the problem. Dr. Blauvelt was familiar with the Ohio State work a decade earlier and set up a research program on use of sodium selenate. The research was strikingly successful, and he was able to report to the New York growers that they could completely control mite in their greenhouses by proper use of sodium selenate.

THE AUTHOR'S EXPERIENCE

My wife had been raising African violets as a hobby since the mid-20's. In 1947 I decided to

build a small hobby greenhouse for her. I, myself, had no interest whatever in the plants then. At about the same time we received a "mite-y" plant from a commercial grower. He was a leader in the field then and still is, and he has since learned proper greenhouse sanitation. Of course at that time we had no idea what the trouble was, but we had no trouble seeing the plants sicken and die. So while I struggled through the summer to get the greenhouse finished before cold weather, more and more of the plants were becoming gnarled and misshapen. I wrote to every state college, every greenhouse advertising African violets, and to every other person mentioned anywhere by anybody as possibly knowing what was wrong with the plants. This may seem like a prodigious amount of writing, but it wasn't. Although the African violet was increasing in popularity very few people actually knew anything about it. The African Violet Society was then only seven months old. Volume I, Number 1 of the African Violet Magazine came in during one of my writing sessions. Ironically enough, it contained the answer I was seeking, but I didn't realize it until many months afterwards. Ferne Kellar, then president of the Society, on page ten of Volume I, Number 1, says this of mites: "The only sure control is sodium selenate."

Late in the summer Dr. Floyd Smith, of the United States Department of Agriculture at Beltsville wrote that he thought the trouble was mites and suggested use of the water bath treatment. We tried the water bath treatment and noted some improvement, but the mite damage re-appeared. We ran the water-bath treatment again. Again the mite reappeared. In desperation I took some plants to the DuPont Pest Control Station. The Director had heard of Dr. Blauvelt's work and suggested I write him. The reports had not yet been published. Dr. Blauvelt immediately sent me details of the treatment. I obtained some sodium selenate from a chemical supply house and used it on a "kill-or-cure" basis. Within a few weeks we saw the miracle of a greenhouse full of sick plants shedding all their sickness and returning to blooming vigor. For eight months the mite had won every round; in four weeks they were completely routed.

When no new damage appeared in the next year I dropped Mrs. Wright a note and asked her if she would be interested in a write-up of our experience for publication in the African Violet Magazine. She said she would. So we

wrote the article in the Fall of 1948 and it was published, under my wife's name, in the March 1949 issue. The issue had hardly hit the mail when letters began to pour in. "Where can I get sodium selenate?" "I will drive two hundred miles to get some." And on and on. It soon became evident that publication of the information about the value of selenate in eliminating mites was in effect only a cruel delusion: Nobody, anywhere, would sell sodium selenate for use as an insecticide. After four months of this constant stream of agonizing letters I decided to do something about it. I applied for authorization to ship selenate. It took several weeks to satisfy the technical requirements, but the authorization was finally completed, and I could ship selenate legally.

Since then I have shipped selenate to many thousand people. A few have had disastrous results, some have had poor luck, others have had fair luck. The overwhelming majority have been entirely successful. So I believe that Ferne Kellar's statement "The only sure cure for mites is sodium selenate," are the truest words ever printed in this Magazine and that they are just as true in 1957 as they were in 1947.

DESCRIPTION OF MITE DAMAGE

There are many kinds of mites, and probably a number of them attack African violets, but only two occur frequently enough to have been definitely recognized: cyclamen mites and broad mites.

All mites are tiny twelve-legged creatures. By strict classification they are not insects, but it is easier to let them be regarded as insects than to explain the difference. They are so small they can not be seen with the naked eye, and generally they can not be found, even when definitely present, by any magnifying equipment less than a binocular microscope. They have very weak mouth portions, a statement that is hard to believe when the amount of damage they do is seen, and work deep within the crown of the plant. They do not actually eat any of the plant. They scratch the surface of tender new foliage while it is still invisible in the growing crown of the plant, and then drink the sap that flows from the wounds. The plant reacts by laying down a corky layer over the irritated area. The cork probably prevents further mite damage at that point but it distorts the leaves and prevents normal growth. The leaves become very brittle and progressively smaller.

In some cases the center leaves, instead of becoming gnarled and distorted, become covered with hairs, and quickly turn gray and die. This is probably due to attack by different kinds of mites or in different combinations, but the facts are not definitely known, although they are sometimes printed as if they were. It makes little difference whether gnarled leaves are caused by cyclamen mite and gray leaves by

broad mite, or vice versa, or if neither statement is right, as the facts of mite control do not depend on identification of the particular mite present. What will control one mite will control the others, and methods that are inadequate against one are also inadequate against the others.

The first indication of mite damage is generally observed in the center leaves. They become either gnarled or grayish, as described above. The gnarled leaves are frequently lighter green than older, normal leaves on the same plant, and the yellowing becomes more pronounced as time passes.

Deformation of blossoms and blossom stems generally follows, but may precede, deformation of leaves. Blossoms become blotched in color, and do not open completely. Length of blossom stem steadily decreases until finally they do not rise above the distorted foliage.

At this stage the plant frequently looks like two plants; one within the other; when viewed directly from above there will be two distinct sets of leaves. The older outer leaves will look normal or approximately so, although blossoms will be absent. The inner leaves will be small, bunched, distorted, and discolored; some blossoms may be present, but they too will be small, bunched, distorted, and discolored and may not rise above the leaves. Between the older leaves and the inner leaves there will be a vacant area; no leaf blades, only the petioles of the older leaves. If the plant is of a vigorous upright growth the older outer leaves may rise far above the distorted inner growth, giving the plant somewhat the appearance of a cup with a rosette at the bottom.

As time passes the centers deteriorate more and more, either to complete death or until new leaves become microscopically small. The outer foliage then becomes weakened by the general sickness of the plant and dies. The result is a completely dead plant. Death from the gray-center type of development is generally far quicker than by the distorted-center type. Plants may linger on for months with their centers gradually getting smaller and harder.

The length of time from first infestation to complete death of the plant, or from first infestation to development of recognizable symptoms is unknown. Apparently it varies very widely. No doubt the factors of type of mites, vigor of the plant, average temperature, etc., enter in. In some cases mite damage seems to "explode" all over at once. In other cases, even when carefully observed, the time for first suspicions to develop into definite symptoms may be several weeks. The facts here are frequently complicated by inability to properly observe progress of damage, or by complete refusal to admit it.

When the evidence is unmistakable, there is a rush to assign the cause, to fix a time, condition, plant, or person that brought the original infestation. I have received many, many, letters

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Bittersweet	Pink Petticoats
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Blue Nocturne	Pollyanna
Blue Pink	Red Comet
Blue Pom	Rose Glow
Camellia	Rose Wing
Dixie Moonbeam	Saint Louis
Dixie Moonbeam Girl	Seafour
Double Fantasy	Sea Sprite
Dbl. Fantasy Ann	Select Pansy Girl
Dbl. Pink Cheer	Show Man
Dbl. Wonder Girl	Show Queen
Dresden Dream	Show Shadows
Ember Pink	Show Winner
Fringed Snow Prince	Snow Princess
Frioletta	Splash
Holiday	Star Blue
Light Honeybud	Strike Pink
Little Aristocrat	Strike Me Pink
Lorna Doone	Swank
Mary Thompson	T V Cut Velvet
Meg	T V Rose Prom
Meteore	Taffeta
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PLEASE NOTE: To speed delivery, all orders are sent by first-class mail, using blocks of commemoratives. No orders are accepted under \$3.00, and on orders below \$5.00 please add 50¢ for postage and packing. Airmail is 50¢ extra up to a \$5.00 order and 5¢ more for each \$1.00 of the order above that. We guarantee safe delivery anywhere in the United States. All leaves are labeled and true to name.

Plants grown in vermiculite are available in these two varieties ONLY. SHOW STAR (pink flowers with perfect blue stars) and PINK CELEBRITY (dbl. dark pink girl). Medium size — \$1.50 each. Small plants (5 to 7 leaves) — \$1.00 each. These can be shipped with leaf orders.

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Write For Our Free List Describing The Above Varieties And Others

on this point. They are frequently vitriolic, blaming the infestation on some definite person, generally for ulterior motives. They are generally quite definite as to time and circumstances. After receiving many of these letters over a period of eight years I am now convinced that in most cases the accuser was wrong and that the actual infestation, the introduction of the first mites, took place much earlier than the time assigned. And, as a corollary, that the accused person or plant is more often not guilty than guilty.

SOURCES OF MITE INFESTATION

Mites are animals. They come only from earlier mites. They must be brought in from some place, they do not arise spontaneously.

In studies made by Dr. Floyd Smith of the United States Department of Agriculture some twenty years ago it was discovered that cyclamen mite and broad mite, the two mites most frequently found on Saintpaulias, could live on such common and widely grown plants as chrysanthemums, pigweed, snapdragon, wax begonia, sugar beet, bouvardia, red pepper, orange, cosmos, cigar plant, cyclamen, dahlia, larkspur, strawberry, fuchsia, cotton, hibiscus, snapweed, sweet potato, morning glory, tomato, mango, tobacco, woodsorrel, Boston ivy, avocado, petunia, bean, blackberry, marigold, verbena, pea, and zinnia. This does not mean that all chrysanthemums, geraniums, and wax plants, to name only three, are infested by mites. It does mean, however, that they may be infested and that the mites could reach your African violets from them, by being carried on your hands, by brush carried through an open window, or by direct contact when the plants are placed together. It follows then that there is some slight possibility of carrying mites to your African violets every time you handle them after touching any other plant, and that placing any other kind of plant among your African violets carries, to some extent, an invitation to mite infestation.

By far the largest source of infection in African violets is, however, other African violets. The most usual sources of infection are (1) handling infested plants and carrying mite on the hands to a previously non-infested collection and (2) placing an unsuspectedly-infested plant in a non-infested collection. Spread by leaf cuttings probably does not occur often. Leaves taken for propagation are generally too tough for mites to live on.

Whatever the source of infestation the mite spread from plant to plant, either by leaf-to-hand-to-leaf or leaf-to-leaf contact, until every plant is infested. Development or recognition of signs of infestation may be so delayed that the impression can easily be given that only certain plants are infected, and the others are mite-free, but the hard fact developed by the sad experience of hundreds of persons, who have thought other-

wise, is that if one plant in a collection is found to be infected the only safe course is to consider every plant infected and to take mite-eradication steps.

DETECTION OF MITES

Mites are entirely too small to be seen with the naked eye. They generally can be recognized only by their effects as described in "Description of Mite Damage". Attempts to find them by examination of the plants with a magnifying glass, or even a low power microscope, have frequently been futile, the mites can be present in plant-destroying numbers and still escape detection.

One of the most unfortunate places of poor recognition and diagnosis of mite on African violets in the past has been high school science or biology teachers. When the plant arrives, the poor teacher has no idea what to look for, no experience in this kind of research, and generally no adequate equipment for the examination. He does the best he can, but generally he doesn't find the mites. So he sends word back that he can't find anything. The owner of the plant blissfully concludes this means her plants are mite free, stubbornly resists the evidence of her senses as she sees her plants progressively grow worse, and rejects the diagnosis and counsel of others. Finally, weeks or months later, when the evidence can no longer be ignored, and most of the plants are dead or ruined, the poor high school teacher gets blamed for the whole situation because he did not find the mites in the first place.

I've seen many nasty situations of this kind develop, and feel that in many towns in this country the high school science teachers have a right to take a pretty dim view of the whole African violet hobby.

Recognition of the advancing symptoms is generally all that is required to detect the presence of mites and the need for mite-eradication. Definite identification of the mites can ordinarily be obtained by sending or taking plants to your State Experiment Station where competent entomologists, working with adequate equipment, can detect and classify the mites if they are present.

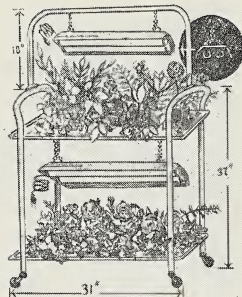
HOW SELENATE WORKS

Sodium selenate is a systemic poison, that is, it is absorbed by the plant roots and carried by the sap throughout the entire plant system. Systemic insecticides were the dream of entomologists for many years, as their potential advantages in insect control were obvious. Sodium selenate was the first material recognized as having systemic properties. African violets were the first crop to use sodium selenate. Thus African violets have another important "first", along with growing under fluorescent lights.

They were the first plant, commercial or otherwise, to be regularly protected by a systemic insecticide.

Plant roots pick up sodium selenate from the soil much as they pick up fertilizer constituents. The selenate is then a part of the plant sap and is carried wherever the sap circulates. Mites, and other foliage-feeding insects, take in sap as they feed. When they receive sufficient sodium selenate they are killed.

"AREALITE" FLOWER CART with fluorescent light fixtures



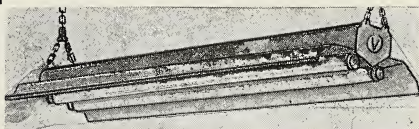
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Cart is on casters, can easily be rolled from room to room, attractive enough for one's living room; two spacious (12" x 31") aluminum no drip rolled edge trays 20 1/2" apart to allow for proper adjustment of lights above plants.

Each fluorescent light fixture is complete with cord, plug, pull switch, chain and two — 20 Watt 24" long fluorescent tubes producing from 100 to 180 foot candles, according to adjustment of chain.

Cart (as shown here) with two fluorescent light fixtures\$42.50*

Cart with two trays and one lower fluorescent light fixture\$30.00*



***\$12.50**

4 ft. long fixture with two — 40 Watt bulbs, switch, 5 ft. cord and plug.

Above fixture available with

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If two sockets for 25 Watt incandescent bulbs are desired, (these are installed between the two fluorescent bulbs) add \$3.00.

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Violets over 300 varieties, leaves 25¢, rooted leaves 40¢ and 50¢. Magic Mix leaf and seed starter, other plants.

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New "Pink Waverly" very dark frilled flower. Lovely dark foliage. \$1.50.
 Free catalog listing hundreds of new and older varieties, also rare bulbs.

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Many varieties to choose from.

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Fresh cut leaves from many new exciting varieties and best of the old. Use Kay's Organic Planter Mix and watch them grow.

3 Quarts \$1.00 P.P. East of Miss. Free List

KAY'S AFRICAN VIOLET SHOPPE
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THE POISONOUS NATURE OF SODIUM SELENATE

Sodium selenate is poisonous, extremely so. In fact it is the most poisonous material authorized for sale by the United States Department of Agriculture as an insecticide.

Methods of measuring how poisonous a material is vary widely, and different methods do not give the same answer, but one widely used method is the measurement of the LD-50 value. This means Lethal Dose in 50% of the subjects tested. Publications of the Association of Food and Drug officials of the United States list the LD-50 of sodium selenate as 2.5 milligrams per kilogram of test animal weight. This is the lowest LD-50 value (highest toxicity) in the whole insecticide table, the next being parathion with 3.0 milligrams per kilogram.

The fact that sodium selenate is poisonous should never be overlooked while using or handling it. However, sodium selenate can be used with entire safety if certain fundamental precautions are observed in handling it.

In order to be poisonous to human beings (or any other warm blooded animals) a poison must enter the body in some way. There are only three methods of entering which need be considered:

1. By being swallowed.
2. By being absorbed through the skin.
3. By being breathed.

If the proper precautions are taken so that sodium selenate (or any other poison) can not enter the body of any warm blooded animal (user, family, children, pets) there is no danger in its use.

To prevent sodium selenate from being swallowed it is necessary that powder, capsules, and solutions must be properly labeled and correctly stored, out of the reach of children, irresponsible persons, and pets. Capsules should not be removed from the bottle until immediately before being made up into solution, and the solution should be plainly labeled. Excess solution and capsules should be discarded or stored where they will not be forgotten.

To prevent sodium selenate from being absorbed through the skin it is necessary to use care that powder and solutions do not contact the skin, either directly or via clothing, and that if some does contact the skin it is washed off immediately. Sodium selenate solutions are not corrosive, that is, they will not burn or damage the skin on immediate contact. If selenate enters a skin opening, such as a cut or a broken blister, however, an intense throbbing will follow. Absorption through the skin is slow, but some does occur. Reasonable care must be taken to prevent selenate contacting the skin, by splashing or otherwise, and to wash off immediately with water any that does contact the skin. If these simple precautions are taken there is no danger

from skin absorption to the user. Prevention of skin absorption by children and irresponsible persons must be accomplished by keeping the selenate out of reach or by washing it off with water as soon as contact is discovered.

Sodium selenate does not give off fumes, and it is never used as a spray for African violets, so it presents no hazard by being breathed. It is for this reason that selenate is so far superior to many other effective materials, particularly parathion. Sodium selenate can be used in the home with no fume danger, none of the highly-toxic sprays or fumigants can be used without endangering anyone who breathes the air in the same building.

SELENATE DOSAGE

Dr. Blauvelt's original research work in 1947 resulted in the recommendation that a solution containing one gram of sodium selenate per gallon be used and that two fluid ounces of this be used per plant in a 4-inch pot. Experience soon showed that this was too strong, that excessive plant damage resulted if this quantity of selenate was applied to old plants already weakened by mites, other insects, over-or-under-fertilization. Various early users reduced the concentration in one way or another until they found a solution strength or an application procedure that was safe for their plants. The terms "quarter-strength," "half-strength," "two-thirds strength" are in circulation and are bandied about by writers who are uncertain as to the actual basis referred to. This has resulted in a confused situation as regards dosage and strength. What is "half-strength" to one writer is "quarter-strength" to another, and vice-versa. Much unnecessary plant damage has resulted from use of solutions containing too much selenate.

The original Blauvelt formula of one-gram-per-gallon solution applied at the rate of one fluid ounce per plant in a 3-inch pot results in application of .0078 grams or 7.8 milligrams of sodium selenate per plant. This solution, although it is too strong for regular use, has been widely referred to as the Standard Solution, largely as a tribute to Dr. Blauvelt's pioneering work.

The Extra Dilute Solution was one containing one-quarter gram of sodium selenate per gallon. It was thus one-quarter as strong as the Standard Solution, hence contained .0019 grams or 1.9 milligrams per fluid ounce. This solution, when applied one fluid ounce at a time to 3-inch pots, resulted in very little adverse plant reaction. Applied four times, at about one week or ten day intervals, it gave a final concentration of selenate equal to that given by the Standard Solution, thus affording the same amount of protection to the plant, but the concentration was built up so slowly that if the plants were otherwise healthy they seldom suffered the wilt or collapse that often resulted from application of the Standard Solution. The Extra Dilute solution is the one that

has been most widely used and has given the most generally satisfactory results.

Selenate is most commonly sold to hobbyists as capsules containing one quarter gram apiece, so that the Extra Dilute solution can be made by dissolving one capsule in one gallon of warm water. The Standard Solution, can be readily made from quarter-gram capsules by dissolving four capsules in a gallon of water.

No set of directions for use of sodium selenate can ever be both accurate and precise. The assumption is generally made that a 3-inch pot contains twice the volume of a 2¼-inch pot, and a 4-inch pot twice the volume of a 3-inch pot, and quantities of solution to be used stated accordingly. But pots differ in size, pot filling practices vary and, particularly, the sizes of plants in the pots vary tremendously. So direc-

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— PLASTIC POTS —

2¼" Round or Square —
25/\$1.00, 50/\$1.75, 100/\$3.00.

3" Round or Square —
25/\$1.50, 50/\$2.75, 100/\$5.25.

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25/\$3.00, 50/\$5.50, 100/\$10.00.

Round Pots — Utility colors. Marbelized. Square Pots in yellow, green, red, white. All alike or assorted colors.

Jiffy Pots — Composed of 75% peat. 25% wood fibre and impregnated with fertilizer.

Roots grow thru pots.
2½" — 25/\$1.00, 50/\$1.75, 100/\$3.00.

Plant Marvel — 8 oz. can \$1.00.

Plastic Markers — white. 100/\$1.25.

Plastic Markers colored — pink, orchid, green, light blue, yellow. 100/\$2.50. Alike or assorted.

3F. Gives plants spectacular new life and vigor, practically over night with wonder-working trace elements in foliar formula with GIBBERELLIN.

Free Fog Sprayer with package sufficient to make 5 gallons of 3F foliar spray. \$2.50 plus 25¢ postage.

Free Fog Sprayer with sufficient to make 2½ gallons \$1.25.

Trial size — enough for 2 quarts. 10¢ plus stamped envelope.

Choicest varieties of African Violets at greenhouse only.

MRS. N. B. WILSON

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tions that are perfectly correct for one person's conditions may be too strong or too weak for some other persons conditions. Fortunately, plants in small pots, where the calculation error is greater, are generally younger and more vigorous and can stand excess quantities of sodium selenate better than older and larger plants.

Accuracy in measuring the volume of solution to be given to each plant is a necessity. If the Standard Solution is used any excess selenate applied, either by making the solution too strong or applying too much, will be quite certain to damage plants. The Extra Dilute solution, while it allows more latitude, must still have accurate measurement or too great a total quantity of selenate will be applied. Use of a measuring device accurately calibrated in fluid ounces is strongly recommended. Small bottles so calibrated can generally be obtained from the local drug store. Chemical or pharmaceutical graduates, properly calibrated in ounces or milliliters are better measuring devices. Either a 25 or a 50 ml chemical graduate can be used; a fluid

ounce is about 28 ml and this can easily be marked on the graduate by a china-marking pencil, piece of tape, string tied around, etc.

A standard tea-cup contains eight fluid ounces, so one fluid ounce is one-eighth cupful. But cups vary so much in size that depending on $\frac{1}{8}$ cupful being one fluid ounce is inviting considerable over-dosage or under-dosage. As a rough evaluation of the size of the cup, check it against a quart milk bottle. If four cups full fill the bottle the cup is about right in size. When a cup is used as a measuring device especial care must be exercised that it is plainly marked or kept where it can't possibly be used for drinking, cooking, or watering pets, or placed in the dish water without preliminary rinsing.

The plants should be moderately damp, neither wet nor dry, when treated with sodium selenate solution. The solution can be applied either by pouring it onto the soil or into the saucer; applying to the soil gives slightly quicker uptake by the plant, but increases the likelihood of plant shock. Applying to the saucer reduces the likelihood of getting any solution on the leaves but may reduce the amount available to the plant by absorption in the pot and saucer themselves.

If any solution gets on the leaves wash it off immediately. Leaves will be blackened and killed by solution remaining on them for any length of time.

There is considerable question that four complete Extra Dilute treatments are required to rid the plants of mites. The exact minimum quantity of selenate required to protect plants has never been determined. Many people have found their plants sufficiently improved in appearance after two or three doses to warrant discontinuance of the treatment. However, application of the fourth dose can generally be considered as a safe precaution as it increases by several weeks or months the period (again, an undetermined quantity) during which the plants contain enough sodium selenate to remain completely mite free.

DURATION OF PROTECTION, AND RE-TREATMENT

Unfortunately, there is no information on which to calculate probable length of the protection period. No precise measurements have ever been made on the five factors which would enter in.

1. Rate of partition of applied sodium selenate between pot, soil, and plant.
2. Minimum concentration of sodium selenate in the sap which will kill mites.
3. Distribution of the selenate between the various plant parts.
4. Rate of inactivation of fixing of sodium selenate in mite-free portions of the plant (such as older leaves which are so tough mites can't feed on them).
5. Rate of loss of selenate in removed leaves, blossom shedding, plant respiration, washing, etc.

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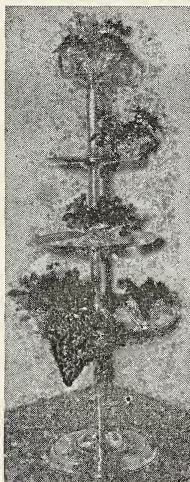
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As information on these points is lacking there can be no precise answer as to how long plants will be protected by one application of selenate.

The assumption most generally made is that all or most of the selenate applied to the soil is transported to the above-ground parts and is evenly distributed amongst them. If this is so every time a leaf is removed or a blossom falls some selenate is lost. Eventually the quantity of selenate will fall so low that the concentration in the sap stream will not kill mites.

Whatever the basic facts are, the empirical fact is that plants once treated with sodium selenate remain mite-free and mite-resistant for at least three to five months. This has been the experience of so many people over so many years that it can not be questioned as to fact. How much longer they may be mite-resistant is largely a matter of personal opinion. Some people believe that once a plant is treated with sodium selenate it will remain mite-resistant throughout its entire life. A safer assumption is that decrease in protective effect may appear and that re-treatment should be made at about four month intervals.

USE ON YOUNG PLANTLETS

This question frequently turns up, "Should I selenate young plantlets, and if so, how much?" There is no answer to this question that is universally applicable.

Mites have weak jaws and can feed only on tender young foliage. Leaves taken for propagation generally are so tough that mites can't feed on them and they starve to death before young plantlets appear. The chances of young plantlets being infected from parent leaves are very small.

However, mite spread readily by direct or indirect (hand) contact amongst adult plants, so they can spread or be spread, from infested adults to tiny plantlets. In this case the presence of mites would have to be detected by the appearance of the plants. If the appearance is there, the mite is there, and selenate should be applied. How much to apply is another question. The plantlets are generally in a tray or some other container so that calculating how much solution to apply is impossible by the ordinary rules; the plants are small so require less selenate; on the other hand the amount of growing medium per plant is large and the ability of roots to gather selenate from the medium is reduced.

A move-slowly-and-watch-carefully procedure must be followed. Generally, application of half

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as much Extra Dilute sodium selenate solution as would be required for that number of plants in 2½-inch pots will arrest mite development. Sometimes additional application must be made. Frequently the dilemma solves itself in that the plants become large enough to pot out. When this can be done precise measurement of solution can then be made. Plants should be allowed at least two weeks in new pots, to permit healing of the roots broken during transplanting, before applying selenate.

To be continued.

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TALLY TIME

Daisy Jones, 1327 Sterick Bldg., Memphis 3, Tenn.

For the fifth annual American African Violet Society Tally I am seeking information from the Affiliated Club Presidents in the U. S. A.

1. Did your club have a Display or Show in 1957?
2. Which variety received Best in Show award?
3. Which three registered named varieties received the National Gold Ribbon?
4. Which three registered named varieties received the National Purple Ribbon?

Your cooperation in sending your information to me promptly after your show will be sincerely appreciated.

THE END

THE SOCIETY PIN

E. Pearl Turner, 838 Kenmore Blvd., Akron, Ohio

The official African Violet Society of America pin or lapel button is about five-eighths of an inch across. It has a blue enamel African violet with a yellow center set in a circle of gold or antique sterling silver, with the letters A. V. S. A. on the circle. The pin has a safety catch. Only National Members are eligible to have this pin.

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THE END

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MYRTLE RADTKE, Treasurer
P. O. Box 1326
Knoxville, Tennessee

Date _____

Please enroll me as a member of African Violet Society of America, Inc. My Dues are enclosed.
All Classes of Memberships Are Defined Below.

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|--------|--|
| SELECT | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership is only \$4.00. |
| AND | <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Membership is \$13.33. |
| CHECK | <input type="checkbox"/> Research Members pay \$20.00. |
| ONE | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Membership is \$10.00. |
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Make Checks Payable to African Violet Society of America, Inc.

DETACH ON DOTTED LINE

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INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS . . . Individual members pay \$4.00 per year (a year may be any twelve-month period).

COMMERCIAL MEMBERS . . . All persons or firms who annually sell one thousand or more African violet plants or leaf cuttings of the same; or who manufacture or sell fertilizer, disease and insect-control materials and equipment, tools, or any other merchandise pertaining to or applicable to growing African violets shall be commercial members. They shall pay \$13.33 per year (a year may be any twelve-month period). Of each annual dues so paid, all sums in excess of \$4.00 shall be applied to the Research Fund of the Society.

RESEARCH MEMBERS . . . Research members pay at least \$20.00 for each twelve-month period of membership, and at least 85% of each membership paid shall be applied to the Research Fund of the Society.

SUSTAINING MEMBERS . . . Sustaining members pay at least \$10.00 per year (a year may be any twelve-month period).

LIFE MEMBERS . . . The payment of \$66.66 or more shall entitle any person to life membership, and life members shall be exempt from any further dues.

MEMBERSHIPS OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

The Society is happy to welcome members from all parts of the world. Application for membership should be sent direct to the Treasurer. Remittance for membership dues, by check, draft or postal money order, should be made payable in United States funds.

EPISCIA "TROPICAL TOPAZ"

Harold E. Moore, Jr., L. H. Bailey Hortorium of Cornell University

All the species and cultivars of *Episcia* that have thus far been known in cultivation characteristically bear red, orange-red, lilac, white, or violet-spotted cream-colored flowers. The appearance of an *Episcia* with yellow flowers has therefore aroused much interest and has posed a question regarding its identity.

The *Episcia* referred to is *Episcia* 'Tropical Topaz' which was introduced from the Panama Canal Zone and registered by Mrs. Leo Spengler of Orlando, Florida. Through the kindness of Mr. Paul Arnold of Binghamton, New York, and of others, I have been able to study fine specimens in flower. *Episcia* 'Tropical Topaz' very closely resembles *Episcia cupreata* variety *viridifolia*. The plants are low with compact crowns of bright green leaves on which the hairs stand more or less erect. Fewer runners are produced than is usual in other species while flowers are abundant in the axils of the leaves. Except for the lack of red color and a tendency to have a less strongly pouched throat, the inch-long flowers are typically those of *Episcia cupreata*. The tube and limb are pale sulphur yellow (Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart $\frac{1}{4}$) deepening on the limb toward the throat.

Plants that I have observed often have somewhat misshapen flowers and the anthers are almost never united in the usual square. Instead, the anthers are usually separate and incompletely developed lacking pollen. These abnormalities suggest that the plant may be a mutant that has arisen in cultivation. Such a conclusion is strengthened by information from Mrs. Peggie Schulz who has written in a personal communication that in 1956 she had plants of *Episcia cupreata* variety *viridifolia* on which a number of flowers were more than half yellow. On the

basis of the external appearance of the plants, I would refer *Episcia* 'Tropical Topaz' to *Episcia cupreata*, considering it a probable mutant form perhaps derived from variety *viridifolia* but differing in its yellow flowers and in its leaves with erect rather than appressed hairs. In order to arrive at more definite conclusions, it will be necessary to study the breeding behavior and genetic constitution of these plants. Regardless of its identity, however, *Episcia* 'Tropical Topaz' deserves a place in every collection of Gesneriads.

THE END

Dr. Moore, author of the above article, has written a book entitled "African Violets, Gloxinias and Their Relatives" which will be released around November. — Editor

African Violets

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SAINTPAULIAS FOR CHELSEA

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Reprinted from
The Horticulture Advertiser, England

MUCH has been written for and against the Saintpaulia as a house plant. Some critics will not speak favourably of it at all, condemning it as a rickie plant killed easily by cold, by draughts or by the slightest neglect which invariably befalls the average plant in the English living-room. Other devotees, of course, speak so highly of the plant's virtues that the listener or reader is bound to realize that it must have some merits, and be of considerable value given the correct growing conditions.

Therein lies the 'secret' of Saintpaulia cultivation; understand the plant's requirements, limitations and possibilities and treat accordingly. Once they have been mastered the Saintpaulia 'bug' bites and collections are started, artificial lights are installed, and there is no end to the pleasure obtained from a well-conceived show of these charming 'Violets'.

For a closer consideration of the Saintpaulia and a preview of the plants which are earmarked for this year's Chelsea Show in six week's time, we recently called on our neighbours, Messrs. W. C. Wicks Ltd., at their Lambley Nurseries near Nottingham. Here we saw upwards of 14,000 beautifully grown young plants immaculately set out on and under staging benches, and realized that this was indeed the home of the Saintpaulia in England.

Chelsea Plants

With the young Mr. Tony Wicks we spent a very pleasant afternoon among the 50 selected varieties for sale this year and the 'trials' of new American varieties from which will be selected the best three or four for inclusion in next season's list.

We saw the Chelsea Show plants (about 100 in 4½-in. pans and 300 in 3-in. pans) growing-on in superb condition. The exhibit is already fully planned and we feel sure that it will again be one of the highlights of the show.

The 'story' behind the production of these Saintpaulias is an interesting one and qualifies to a degree that 'it is easy when you know how'. Messrs. Wicks have gone to great lengths to find out 'how' and are still experimenting with different types of fluorescent lighting to find out more about the responses of this fascinating Gesneriaceae.

The 'Violet' Houses

The type and construction of the Saintpaulia houses at Lambley have been carefully con-

sidered. Metal houses have been chosen to permit maximum winter light. Benches are constructed of 'Dexion' slotted angle (highly satisfactory) and corrugated sheeting, and double 4-in. hot-water pipes run the length of the houses above the centre bench and beneath the side benches, and also along the sides of the benches. The side benches are equipped with propagating frame lights (held up close to the glass in the growing season but let down to cover the boxes of leaf cuttings during propagating).

Full utilization of the house space is made by the installation of tubular lighting beneath every bench, above the 'bottom tier' of young plants (one-third of the quantity of 'Violets' grown are under these lights). Fluorescent lighting is also installed above the benches to supplement winter daylight. A false flat 'roof' of polythene has been spread well above the centre bench to catch any dust or dirt from the ventilators, as the hairy leaves of the Saintpaulia are difficult to clean. The side benches are draped to the floor with polythene to protect the lower plants from draught and damage, and we learned that the temperature was fully 5° warmer beneath these benches.

Pest control is effected by 'aerovap' aerosols and periodic sprays against likely pests. (We would add that we have seldom seen such a clean lot of plants set out in so orderly a manner.)

General Cultivation

Propagation is mainly from 3-in. long leaf cuttings inserted ½-¾-in. deep at an angle in a moist, light sandy compost (½ sharp sand, ½ peat). Rooting occurs in two or three weeks in temperatures between 55-65°F., then the case lights are lifted. From the end of February the houses are shaded to prevent scorching from direct sunlight.

The minimum temperature for Saintpaulias is 50°F., and even short periods below that temperature will severely damage the plants. Watering must be done with tepid water, and at Lambley there is a 3000-gallon tank in the greenhouse from which the water is drawn.

Overhead water from cans is applied three times a week to all the 'Violets', and no harm is incurred. When the plants are growing more rapidly in the summer they will require more frequent dosages. Feeding is of Liquinure, starting in April. The atmosphere is best kept reasonably humid.

Once the leaf cuttings are separated they are potted into 3-in. deep pans (not pots) and set pot (pan) thick on moist peat on the benches. The first turnover and room out takes place in February, then again in April giving more space as required. It has been found that the compost used is sufficiently open to dispense with crocking — and results show no ill effects.

Flowers are picked over regularly and allowed to develop a few weeks before the plants are ready for despatch. Two-thirds of the plants go by mail order, rolled in double tissue then newspaper and packed in strengthened chip baskets. Every plant has its own metal variety label, and with it is supplied brief cultural directions.

Varieties

Although over 2000 varieties (including many synonyms, we imagine) exist in America, only 50 or so have been selected from over 400 grown at Lambley, to be distributed this year. This varietal over-abundance is one of the headaches of Saintpaulia growers, and as the popularity in this country increases we do hope that those in authority will consider the selection and even some form of registration of worthy varieties.

The First British Branch of the African Violet Society of America is now over 100 strong and members receive the very attractive and informative quarterly magazine of that Society. (The parent Society has over 15,000 members.)

With Mr. G. J. Wicks whose love of the Saintpaulia is quite exceptional, we visited his 'playroom' at home where he has shelves of his favorite plants growing under fluorescent lighting and thermostatically controlled heating. There he recalled how nearly all the varieties grown on the nursery were through the courtesy of Mrs. Pearl Thomas in America who annually sent over the best new introductions. From the plants in this room Mr. Wicks saves seed for overseas enthusiasts who want progeny from good parents.

A few of the best varieties we noted are Pink Cloud, double pink; Black Magic, double rich purple; Blue Boy, the original variety grown by the firm; Finlandia, rich velvet-purple single with intense yellow eye; Blue Lady, light blue

single; and Blue Fairy Tale, a few shades deeper. White Madonna is the best white double; and White Prince a noted single.

Not Only Saintpaulias

We must not give the impression that Saintpaulias alone form the business of these nurseries. Far from it. The Mapperley nurseries are a rich source of Scandinavian house plants; at Lambley are grown over 14,000 Hydrangeas, 10,000 top-quality Cyclamen of the Wicks' strain which we understand is becoming more noted for scent; between 5000 and 6000 boxes of bedding plants; and a good output of Primulas and pot-grown Genistas. Some 30 acres are down to herbaceous plants and shrubs, and 60,000 Roses are budded annually. The firm 'stands' Nottingham market daily.

The Future?

We have often wondered to ourselves whether or not the Saintpaulia will really catch on. Encouraged as a hobby, to be grown in collections under attractive artificial lighting units, there is a great scope, we feel sure. The housewife must be educated to realize the possibilities in this field (the Saintpaulia is really a lady's flower) and should be given the chance to build up a collection of good plants for a reasonable outlay.

The fact that these 'Violets' are so easy to propagate is a point in their favour, but it still requires the skilled nurseryman to carry commercial quantities of stock through the winter and spring. Messrs. W. C. Wicks Ltd. are giving the public this chance of something 'new', and fellow nurserymen willing to take pains to provide 'Violet' conditions in one or two of their houses could further this popularity to their own benefit.

And so to Chelsea. . .

THE END

OUR 1957 FALL LIST OF FRESHLY CUT LEAVES IS NOW READY

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We stock more than 1000 varieties in both starter and blooming plants, and will be glad to hear from you regarding any in which you are interested that are not listed. We ship leaves only.

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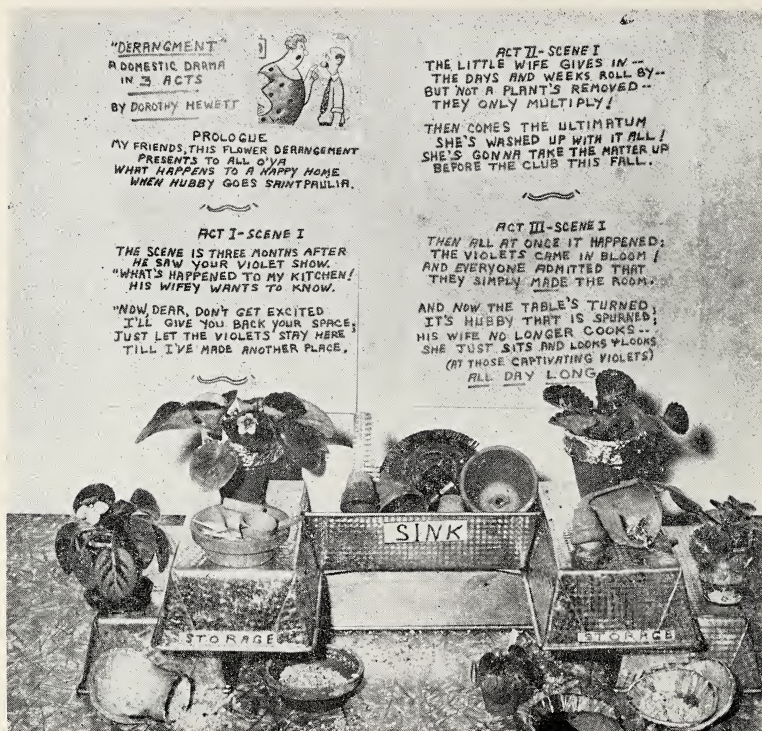
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DERANGEMENT

Dorothy Hewett, Alderwood Manor, Washington

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Photograph by George P. Hill, Seattle, Washington

WHY DO THEY BLAME THE GROWER?

Helen Thompson, Ottawa, Canada

I am often asked, "Where can I buy good African violets?" and I always give the names of people I know grow and sell excellent stock. Later on some of the folks who have asked will tell me that there must have been something the matter with the plants, for they were no good, and they all died.

This sort of talk annoys me, as in most cases the fault is with the customer. They will broadcast that Mrs. So-and-So's plants are no good. They really do a lot of harm to the growers, yet they do this quite innocently. It is just a cover-up for their own failure, but it certainly can be quite harmful.

I had a very good friend phone and tell me of all her poor purchases in violets. I stood it

as long as I could, as I have given her many healthy little plants and they never last more than a few months, and finally I said, "Could the fault be yours?" I told her the next time she bought some plants I would take one and see what happened. As I expected, the one I got from her is doing beautifully. I have tried my best to help her keep these new plants. She seems to want the plants, but fails to give them the proper attention. She is now really trying, and I do hope she is more successful.

I feel too many people condemn the grower instead of figuring out what they are doing wrong. Think it over before you say "The plants I bought were no good." People who sell violets and are making a success of their business want you to grow good plants and would not sell anything that was diseased. They take every precaution to give you healthy plants.

NEW AFFILIATED CHAPTERS

Maxine Wangberg, 14½ North Central Avenue, Harlowton, Montana

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, Mrs. F. R. Hager, president, 6558 24th Street, N. E., Seattle, Washington.
THE FIRST AFRICAN VIOLET STUDY CLUB OF ASHTABULA, OHIO, Mrs. Gordon Conley, president, 3928 W. Prospect Road, Ashtabula, Ohio.
AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF PARKERSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA, Miss Betsy Rowe, president, 915 17th Street, Parkersburg, West Virginia.
THE BAY MINETTE AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, ALABAMA, Mrs. Joseph Martin, president, 506 East Second Street, Bay Minette, Alabama.
FLUER PETITE AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, MINNESOTA, Mrs. Hazel Scharmer, president, 5328 44th Avenue, South, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
HILL CREST VIOLET CLUB, VIRGINIA, Mrs. Cora Fuller, president, 406 Westover Blvd., Lynchburg, Virginia.
BI-COUNTY AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, ILLINOIS, Mrs. Samuel Greenfield, president, 1084 Jefferson Street, Galesburg, Illinois.

Dear Affiliated Chapter Members:

In my message in the June issue a mistake was made in the fourth paragraph, concerning the new file I am setting up. The National date of members may be found in the upper right hand corner of their current membership card. It will assist us greatly if you will note this date on the green form when sending in renewal memberships.

Time has not permitted me to write a note of explanation when changing the Chapter dates as I would like to do. If the Chapter statement reads 'pro-rated,' it means that the original date is being changed to coincide with the election date of your club. This is just for the Chapter dues and is not meant for the members' dues that may be due at the same time. It is gratifying that all clubs with which I made contact have co-operated one hundred per cent.

It is not too early to begin planning for the work shop meeting to be held at the Rochester Convention. Perhaps one meeting of your club could be given to the discussion of your problems, and to select a delegate to this meeting. If your club does not plan to send a delegate to the meeting, write to me concerning problems that you may have and I will discuss them at the meeting. A report of this meeting will then be published in a future issue of the Magazine.

More and more material is being added to the Library for use at your meetings. When writing to the Librarian, Mrs. Jack Yakie, be sure to state the full name of your club, and to include your own address.

In the June issue I requested those clubs who are one hundred per cent National to send the club names to me, to be printed in the December issue. These will be printed again in the June issue. The clubs which lack a few members before being one hundred per cent National will want to work a little harder to be eligible for this recognition.

Keep in mind that all Chapter mail is being forwarded to me. You will save time and effort by those who work for you if you will mail new and renewal memberships, as well as all inquiries, directly to me.

Cordially,
Maxine Wangberg

ROOTED

AFRICAN VIOLET LEAVES

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DOROTHY K. ATKINSON

1702 Grove Ave. North Chicago, Ill.

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GRANGER GARDENS

Route 2

Medina, Ohio

OSCAR'S MINNEAPOLIS CONVENTION REPORT

Conrad J. Stark, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Dear Freunds:

For a long time already, I vas wanting to rite to you — to tell about da trip vhat mine vife Anna und me took to dot Aufrican Violet Conwenshun in Minneapples. Obber so far I neffer have time. I am vorking all da time long ours at da prewery. Obber 2 weeks ago, when I vas painting da kitchen ceiling, I fell from da shtep ladder off und broke mine leg twice — in two places, I mean. So now I got blenty time to rite. So dot iss vhat I am doing now. Besser late dan neffer. Nicht wahr?

Vas in April 1956 me und mine vife Anna jump in da old tin lizzie und shtart outd for Minneapples. Now, from Milwaukee to Minneapples iss a long vase yet. Obber ve taught iss vorth vwhile going. Ve like dose Aufrican violets so much. Und ve want to see vhat comes new outd.

Vell, ve haff no trubble on da trip; outdsidte of a coupla flat tires. So ve get into Minneapples allrite pefore da Conwenshun shtarts.

Ve vent rite to da hotel vhere iss da conwenshun. Tinking ve vas going to get a room dere for shleeping. Obber you know vhat? Dem shtinkers vant for one nite shleeping \$12, for me und Anna. Gott im Himmel! Dey must tink ve iss billionnaires. Da man says diss iss mitt batt too. Na Ya! For vhat ve vant mitt batt? Ve took vun batt diss veek already yet. Pefore ve left from Milwaukee already. Und also, me und mine Anna, ve not gonna shleep too much. Ve gonna go outd und trink a liddle peer und maype some schnapps. Und ve gonna danse too, valse und polka. Vunce in lifetime ve go to Conwenshun, ve gonna haff some fun.

So den ve vent outd to look for a goot Cherman bording house. Iss not many Cherman bording houses in Minneapples. Iss all over Svedes. Obber ve found vun. Und for \$12 ve got shleeping for me und mine vife Anna for tree days; und eating too yet. Goot eating — viener schnitzel, katofel und glace, schtrudel und so vass. Dot vooman can cook so good like mine Anna almost.

Vell, da first effning ve vent to da Conwenshun to da dinner meeting. Dot costs for me und Anna fife dollars eech. Dots lotts gelt, nicht wahr? Obber mine son Emil he giff us for diss da monie. So ve vent. First ve vas eating. Englisher cooking, not so goot like da bording house. Den comes all kindsa speachus. Best speach vas from a vooman py name uff Helen von Pelt — goot high class Cherman name. She talks all kinds shtuff. Some iss funny to me — makes me laff yet. Obber mine Anna don't laff. She say to me iss not polite to laff vhen vooman

iss speatching. Vell, maype not, obber I hear some udder peeple laff too. So iss some udder dumpkops dere pesides me. Ya Wohl! dot missus von Pelt iss pretty goot speatch maker yet. Vhen da speatches vas all done; dey give away lotts brizes. Obber ve didn't vin nutting yet.

So den dey open da doors for da Comersshul Show up. Dass iss vere all big shot growers got dere new Aufrican violets. Ach du Lieber! I neffer saw something like it. Vas a reglar schtampede. Vas like in da old cuntry ven dere Kaiser comes to town.

Vell, me und Anna ve pushed hardt so ve finely got in diss room. Ach! I'm telling you for true. I neffer in mine hole life see nutting like diss. All dem vunderfull violets. Gott im Himmel, vas pewtiful! All da colors of da rain-pow. Und sucha pewtiful blants yet.

Und da pest of all in da hole show; vas dose Tonktale violets. Ach! so gross, so schoen. Vunderbar! You know something? Dot Mr. Anderson iss maype a Svede. Obber he iss no dumpkopf yet. No sir, not vunce. I tell you something. I tink he hass got it all figgered outd. All dose peeple vill see dose pewtiful violets. Den dey are gonna shtart itching — dey vunt some uff dose too. So da next day, dey all gonna come outd to his blace und buy blenty violets. He's gonna pay off da morgage all in vun lump. Pertty schmardt. Nicht wahr?

Vell, da next day. Me und Anna ve took da bait, mitt da hook, line und zinker too. Ve vent outd to Mr. Andersons greenhouse. Ach du Lieber! More und more pewtiful blants. Und peeple! Da hole blace vas full uff dem. Running around like crazy, grabbing violet blants, hole boxes full uff dem.

Me und Anna, ve looked und looked. Und ven ve could not look no more, ve bought some violets too. A Sundanse und a Minnettsota und a Pink Cameal. I says to Anna, "Dots enuff, odder ve go broke yet." Obber she reeches down in cortset und pulls outd yet fife dollars. Und den she goes und pays some more yet.

Vell, it makes me no diffrence ven I help pay off Mr. Andersons morgage. Obber vun ting he could do. He could told me his tsecret, how he races dem so schoen, mitt so many pig flowers on yet — ven I buy violets from him. I ask him — real nice too. Obber you know, dot schnickelfritz he don't told me. I neffer new Svedes vas so stinchy. I peg him on mine knees yet. Obber he voodn't told me — says it's tsecret. Sucha tsecret I vish I know.

You know something? In sucha Sosiety like ve got here, mitt so many goot lookin voamins

in it yet — somebuddy should be able to veele
dot tsecret from Mr. Anderson oudt. Vy don't
vun uff you young voomans get hold uff him at
da next Conwenshun. Und drag him off, und
feedt him some schampain odder scnapps odder
peer. Vhateffer he likes best yet. Den take him
in da corner und go to vork on him. Like Mati
Hari yet. Seems to me, ven some voomans can
make some mens comitt soocide. Den some voo-
man should be able to dig diss tsecret from Mr.
Anderson oudt.

Ven ve come back from Mr. Anderson's blace,
Ve vent to da lunch meeting. More eating, more
speatches. Ven ve vass eating, iss sitting next to
a Dr. Reed. He vass talking to some udder
man. I try to listen in, obber couldn't unnershtood
much. Dey vas talking all about hybritizing, und
crumzones und jeansie und shtuff like dat. Dat
Dr. Reed must be pretty goot educated fella —
ven he can unnershtood all dat shtuff. Vunder
vhat kinda Dr. he iss? Could he be violet Dr.
you tink? Do dey haff dose too?

In da eefning ve looked vunce more tru da
Comershul Show. Den ve vent by da room vere
vass da udder show. Nicht for comershul big
shots, obber for common peeples like us. Dere
ve see more und more pewtiffull violets. You
know someting? Mine und Annas violets don't
look like dose blants atall. Ven ve see dem, ours
look sick. I tink maype ve should send dem back
to Aufrica yet.

Da pest blant in diss hole show vass so
vunderfull, it makes tears come in mine eyes yet.
A great pig Rumpeld Queen, mitt maype vund
hunnred flowerrs on yet. Vunderbar! Vell, ve
vent around dat room four times, I tink — could
not shtop looking. Obber pretty soon Annas feet
shtart to hurt, so ve vent by da bording house
to shleep.

Next day ve did not go to ennymore meetngs.
Ve only looked around Minneapples und rested
goot up. So den in da eeffning ve vent by a
saloon. Und danced und trank a few peers und
hat a goot time.

Next morning ve got early up und shtarted
to Milvaukee back.

So dot vass our trip to da Conwenshun. Wery
enchoyable too yet. Maype sometimes ven da
Conwenshun comes to Milvaukee, ve vill see you
dere — Anna und me — ven ve liff so long.

Yours goot freund,
Oscar Schlizbottle

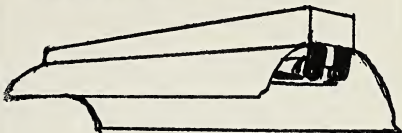
P.S. Don't forget girls, vhat I said you should
do to Mr. Anderson. I vould haff mine Anna do
it. — Don't tink 40 years ago she couldn't do it.
— Obber today she iss a liddle too oldt und maype
a liddle too heffy too yet.

P.S. Number 2. Bring da Conwenshun to Mil-
vaukee somtimes. I vill take you py da prewery
vere I verk. Und fill you mitt goot Milvaukee
peer up.

Machts goot und Auf Wiedersehn.

THE END

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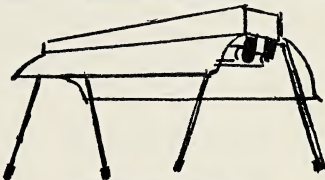
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● **THE WISCONSIN COUNCIL OF AFRICAN VIOLET CLUBS** will hold its first display September 24, 1957, at Mitchell Park Boat House, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

● **The AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF MOLINE, ILLINOIS, CHAPTER #1**, will hold its annual show on October 13, 1957, at the American Legion Hall.

● **The INDIANAPOLIS AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, CHAPTER #1** will hold their fifth annual show at the Marrott Hotel Mirror Room October 26 and 27, 1957.

● **The OMAHA AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, OMAHA, NEBRASKA**, held its tenth anniversary show with "Violets on Parade" in the Floral Court of the Joslyn Museum on March 16 and 17, 1957. The fountain in the center, decorated with orchids and heather, made a beautiful setting for the violets displayed on tiered tables around the court.

The theme was carried out with a display of "Violets on Parade" in orchid and green with small carts carrying some of the popular violets of the past year. The parade was led by a band.

The novelty table, with its shadow box background, held many interesting containers. On the table covered with silver and pink were the beautiful double pinks; violets in bubble bowls, and other novelties.

There were two tables of arrangements using African violets as the center of the arrangements. The propagation table, with its soil mixtures, seed pods and seedlings, was a popular display.

There were 271 plants on display with 205 varieties. About 5,000 people attended the show.

● Over five hundred guests viewed the **LORAIN COUNTY AFRICAN VIOLET SHOW** in the O'Neil Community Auditorium, May 4, 1957. The show was officially opened with the cutting of the ribbon at the entrance by the store manager's wife, Mrs. J. Gabor. The club presented Mrs. Gabor with an African violet named Blue Nocturne.

A May Pole with girl violets as the dancers, was used along with the theme "Maytime Is Violet Time."

SHOW News and Views

Eunice Fisher, Show Editor, Route 3, Box 281, Oshkosh, Wisconsin

One hundred thirty-nine entries in all classes were judged by Mrs. L. Conant, Bay Village; Mrs. H. Pochurek, Solon; Mrs. J. Held, Fairview Park, Ohio.

A gold cup and a blue ribbon went to both Mrs. H. Langthorpe for her Sailor's Delight queen of the show, and to Mrs. Wm. A. Griffin, sweepstakes winner, for receiving the greatest number of blue ribbons. Blue ribbons went to second place winner, Mrs. J. Reinhardt, for her table arrangements of African violets and other materials; to third place winner, Mrs. L. Grahn, for her Pink Cheer, the smallest blooming plant entered.

● **THE HARMONY AND HI-LOA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** held their second annual African violet show April 28, 1957, at the American Legion Hall, Boise, Idaho. Mrs. W. G. Orwin was general chairman of the show. There were more than five hundred plants exhibited. Mrs. Hollis Peterson and Mrs. Don Whitehead had charge of the tea table.

● **THE SHERIDAN AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB** held its third annual African violet show April 27, 1957, at the Hospitality Room in the Bank of Commerce. Theme of the show was "Violets Through the Year." This was developed with a special arrangement for each month of the year. A number of the club members presided over the tea table throughout the hours of the show.

● **THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF THE MUSCLE SHOALS AREA** held its sixth annual show in the basement of the First Methodist Church, Florence, Alabama, on May 9 and 10, 1957. The theme of the show was "May's Treasure Chest." Mrs. D. T. Wilcoxson won the best plant in the show award. Mrs. V. E. Lund entered the best arrangement. Best three registered plants were entered by Mrs. L. H. Almond. Mrs. Frank Headrick of Florence, was chairman of the show. Judges were Mr. and Mrs. Kirkpatrick of Birmingham, Alabama, and Mrs. H. C. McCool of Florence.

● **THE YAKIMA VALLEY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB** held its first show at Yakima, Washington, April 9 and 10, 1957. Theme of the show was "Violets on Parade." Mrs. Guy France won the sweepstakes award and Mrs. John Hope was awarded best of the show award with a plant of Autumn. Judges for the show were Mrs. Artis Baylor, Bothell, Washington; Mrs. Rose Keigley, Gig Harbor, Washington; and Mrs. Elsie Overman of Tacoma, Washington. Mrs. Guy France was chairman of the show.

● **THE AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB** of Greater Kansas City held its seventh annual show at the Kansas City Municipal Auditorium February 23 and 24, 1957. The theme of the show, "Violet Holiday," was carried out with special display tables for Easter, Independence Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Mrs. John T. Buckner of Pleasant Hill, Mo., took the sweepstakes honors with thirty seven blue ribbons. Mrs. Leighton entered the best plant in the show, T. V. Stagline. Mrs. George Pendleton took the greatest number of lavender ribbons for best plant in each of fourteen classes. The National Gold Award went to Mrs. Buckner, and the Purple Ribbon Award went to Mrs. Pendleton. Judges of the show were Mrs. Howard Martin, Mrs. O. C. Alleger, and Mrs. A. E. Gander. Bill Smithson served as show chairman.

● **THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF LONG BEACH** held its show April 30 and May 1, 1957. The theme of the show was "Treasure Chest Of Violets." Sweepstakes trophy was won by Mrs. Iva Doman of Lynwood, California. She also took the gold rosette for queen of the show; the theme arrangement rosette; and the National Gold Ribbon Award. The Purple Ribbon was won by Mrs. S. Gertrude Pettit of Long Beach. Best arrangement award went to Mrs. Helen Koran of Long Beach. Mrs. Viola Wilson of Bellflower, Mrs. Irene Courson, and Mrs. Amy Vogel of Long Beach served as co-chairmen.

● **THE VIOLETEERS** of Michigan City, Indiana, gave their third annual non-competitive flower show April 28, 1957. The group displayed four hundred plants. Their theme was "Hit Parade of Violets" with song titles serving as focal points in the displays.

● **THE WILLOWS AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** of Willows, California, held its first show with the theme "Floral Fantasy." The theme was depicted by arrangements representing songs both old and new. The club chose "Deep Purple" as the song for it to represent, and used a musical staff flowing down to scatter into a field of purple violets.

● The **DOTHAN AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB** held its first show at the home of Mrs. O. S. Anderson, 606 N. Denton St., Dothan, Alabama. Chairman of the show was Mrs. L. H. Shows. Over one hundred varieties of African violets were on display.

● **THE FIRST AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** of Hammond, Indiana, held its sixth annual show May 4 and 5, 1957, at Calumet Memorial Park Building. The theme of the show was "Violets in Rhythm." Mrs. Wm. Henderson served as general chairman. Mrs. Olive Jones won best plant in the show.

● **THE METROPOLITAN ST. LOUIS COUNCIL** of African Violet Clubs staged its fifth annual show March 30 and 31, 1957, at the Missouri Botanical Garden, Shaws Display House. The theme of the show was "African Violet Jewels."

Mrs. Fred Tretter won the National Gold Ribbon Award with three registered named varieties. Mrs. Wilbur Mock won the Purple Ribbon Award. Sweepstakes award was won by Mrs. A. R. Stutko with sixteen blue ribbons. Mrs. Fred Tretter won twelve blue ribbons.

The National Award plants and sweepstakes ribbons were displayed on a half circle table draped in purple and white nylon net sprinkled with gold sequins. In the center was a beautiful jeweled crown and scepter. Over this display in large letters was the sign, "The Crown Jewels."

● **THE MEMPHIS AND SHELBY COUNTY** African Violet Society held its 10th annual spring show at the Memphis Museum April 3 and 4, 1957. The theme of the show was "Artistry in African Violets." On the raised dais there was a lovely painting on an easel, and on each side were large corsages of white and pink African violets with ruffles of tulle. This made a lovely sight.

The variety Red Head entered by the show chairman, Mrs. John Pierce, won for her the coveted trophy for the best single bloom violet in the show. The National Gold Ribbon went to Mrs. Wm. F. Murrah, and Mrs. H. W. Buckley received the National Purple Award. Mrs. Boyd Scarbrough won the trophy for best arrangement, and Mrs. Murrah was awarded the sweepstakes for the most blue ribbons.

● **THE SAN JOAQUIN AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** held its second African violet show April 6 and 7, 1957, at Haggin Museum. The theme of the show was "African Violet Treasures." An old treasure chest with its string of jewels showing made an ideal setting for the best in the show, which was won by Mr. George Hogan with a plant of September Song. In arrangements Mrs. S. P. Vandervoort won the sweepstakes. Judges were Mrs. L. E. McLaughlin, North Highlands, Sacramento; Mrs. Jack Ziegler and Mrs. J. L. Hunter, Stockton. Mrs. John Garibaldi was chairman; Mrs. George Woodruff, co-chairman.

● **THE LADY CONSTANCE AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB**, displayed many specimen plants at the first non-competitive violet show at Elgin, Illinois, in which three other local violet clubs also displayed

plants. The Buttons and Bows Club had a special table. Mrs. Bernice Oldenberg represented the West Chicago Club with a nice selection of specimens. James Burnidge had a special display table. Mrs. Albert Peterson represented the Unique Club, and Mrs. Earl Tubbs had outstanding plants.

● **THE EIGHTH ANNUAL LITTLE ROCK AFRICAN VIOLET SHOW** was held in the Highland Park Social Room on March 28, 1957. Mrs. Zelma Pierce won the sweepstakes award, and she exhibited the best plant in the show, a specimen plant Wintergreen. An outstanding exhibit by Mrs. Zelma Pierce and Mrs. Herbert Hill illustrated the theme of the show, "Raining Violets." Blue ribbons were won by Mrs. H. C. Thompson, Mrs. E. V. Moore, Mrs. S. R. Jackman, Mrs. R. E. Scott, Mrs. Carl Jones, Mrs. John T. Nolan, and Mrs. Zelma Pierce. The judges for the show were Mrs. Kenneth Maus and Mrs. Lillie Baker of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and Mrs. M. J. Hitchcock of Little Rock.

● **THE SANTA MONICA CHAPTER** of the African Violet Society held its fifth annual show April 5 and 6, 1957, at the auditorium of the Santa Monica Women's Club. The theme of the show was "April Showers," and the idea was carried out in extensive decorations of parasols, made of nylon net and ribbon in all shades of violets, from the reds through the pale lavenders.

The National Awards were won by Mrs. James M. Johnson and Mrs. Esther N. Sherer. The sweepstakes cup and the queen of the show award went to Mrs. James M. Johnson. Chairman of the show was Mrs. Harold Barden.

● **THE SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB** held its annual violet show April 6 and 7, 1957, at the Garden Exchange Auditorium in Trumbull, Connecticut. The theme of the show was "Any Time is Violet Time" with a large clock made of twelve varieties. Mrs. Alexander Brock won the tri-color award. Mrs. Walter Goldman of Milford, Connecticut, was show chairman.

● **POMONA VALLEY CHAPTER'S FOURTH ANNUAL SHOW** was held in Laverne, California, April 15, 1957. "April Showers" was the theme of the show. Sweepstakes trophy went to Mrs. Helen A. Berghthold of West Covina; runner-up was Mrs. Myrtle M. Goodrich of Whittier. An outstanding commercial display of over one hundred new varieties was set up by Mrs. Ethel Houdyshel of LaVerne.

● **THE JAMESTOWN AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB** held its fourth annual show April 24, 1957, in the YWCA Auditorium, Jamestown, New York. The theme of the show was "Easter Parade of African Violets." The general chairmen in charge of arrangements were Mrs. James R. Johnson and Mrs. Lavern Clawson.

Queen of the show was won by Mrs. Vernon Burmeister. Sweepstakes was won by Mrs. Clarence Sandberg. The New York state award went to Mrs. Burmeister, as did also the first National Award. Judges for the show were Mrs. Fred Flory of Geneseo, Mrs. Byrdena Woodlet of Gowanda, and Lewis E. Cook of Gainesville.

● **THE METROPOLITAN AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS**, held its third annual show April 27 and 28, 1957, in the Arts and Science Center at Glen Oak Park Pavilion. Theme of the show was "A Little Bit of Heaven." Mrs. L. B. Hotchkiss served as general chairman.

● **THE LITTLE RIVER AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB** of Miami showed one hundred plants in the Metropolitan Show of Miami. Their theme was "Let There Be Light." The club was awarded the green ribbon for their educational display. Mrs. Ray Underwood was show chairman.

● "Violet Holiday" was the theme of the first annual show given by **STORY CITY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB**. Mrs. A. A. Rose served as chairman. Judges were Mrs. Leo R. Brown, Mrs. H. B. Hetrick, Mrs. Ward Swanson, and Mrs. Ray C. Fountain of Des Moines. Best violet in the show was exhibited by Mrs. Iver Egenes. Mrs. Egenes also won sweepstakes with thirty-three blue ribbons.

● **THE SYRACUSE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** held its fifth annual show April 27 and 28, 1957, at the Museum of Fine Arts, Syracuse, New York. Queen of the show in the amateur division was won by Mrs. William Kittell with a plant of Queen's Cushion. Queen of the show in the commercial class went to Mrs. Harold Rienhardt with a plant of Meteore. The sweepstakes award for amateurs went to Mrs. E. K. Herrald. Sweepstakes in decorative classes went to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Coyne.

● **THE PHOENIX AND TUCSON, ARIZONA, AFRICAN VIOLET CLUBS** sponsored the first African Violet show at the Valley Garden Center in Phoenix, April 28, 1957. The theme of the show was "African Violets in the Desert." There were one hundred seventeen entries. Mrs. B. F. Hill, Phoenix, won sweepstakes award. The award for the best plant in the show was won by Mrs. Roland A. Fogg, Tucson, with her T-V Chaperone. Mrs. John Lee, Tucson, won second with a plant of Ruffled Treasure. Third place went to Mrs. M. J. Silverman, Phoenix, with Azure Beauty. Staging for the show was done by Mrs. M. Y. Carpenter and Mrs. P. C. Claypool, both of Phoenix.

● **THE CENTRAL CONNECTICUT SAINT PAULIA CLUB** held its fourth exhibition on April 30, 1957, at the Kensington Congregational Church Parish House, Kensington, Connecticut. The theme

of the show was "Saintpaulia Stars." Only one class was judged, that of single and double blues. Judges were Mrs. James Greene, Mrs. Anthony Allo, and Mrs. Samuel Goldman, all from the Southern Connecticut Saintpaulia Club.

Queen of the show was won by Mrs. Felix Montano with her plant of Ocean Wave. First prizes were awarded to Mrs. Traskers and to Mrs. Felix Montano. More than four hundred plants were exhibited.

● **THE MISSOURI VALLEY AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** of St. Joseph, Mo., held its annual show on April 27 and 28 at the YWCA building. The award for the best plant in the show was won by Mrs. L. A. Beck with Purple Knight. Sweepstakes award went to Miss Viola Coe. Chairman of the show was Mrs. Ray Thalp.

● **THE SUNRISE SAINTPAULIAN CLUB** of Toledo, Ohio, held its first show April 25 and 26, 1957, in the Monroe Street Methodist Church. The National Gold Ribbon went to Mrs. Charles Crawford. The Purple Ribbon Award went to Mrs. Earl Fleming. Ohio awards, given to plants hybridized in Ohio, were the silver ribbon to Mrs. Stanley Miller, and the orchid ribbon to Mrs. Charles Crawford. A sterling silver bowl donated by Mrs. Carl Fleming was won by Mrs. Charles Suhr with her plant of Pink Ideal as queen of the show. Senior sweepstakes trophy went to Mrs. Charles Suhr. Junior trophy award was won by Mrs. Stanley Miller. Judges were Mrs. John Held, Mrs. Leslie Conant and Mrs. Frank Pochurek.

● **THE WAUKEGAN SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY OF WAUKEGAN, ILLINOIS**, held its first African violet show on April 28, 1957, at the American Legion Hall, Washington Street. Mrs. Violet Bardousky won the most blue ribbons. Show chairman was Mrs. Olive Prather; co-chairman Mrs. Wm. Van Degrift. The theme of the show was "The Violet Basket."

● **THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF UTAH, CHAPTER ONE**, held its fourth annual show in South Salt Lake City, April 20 and 21, 1957. The theme of the show was "African Violets in the

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It requires nine plants, preferably plants out of small pots, just ready to bloom. Single crown plants and varieties that don't get too bunched are recommended.



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We ship one 9" wire basket, swivel and suspending wires, watering pot, two kinds of moss, and instructions for \$2.25 ea. or two sets for \$4.00 postpaid. If desired, we can furnish an 11" bird cage bracket to fasten on the window for .35¢ ea. when ordered with the basket.

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Easter Parade." Mrs. Norman Rae was show chairman. Mrs. Herschel Roberts won the National Purple Ribbon. The Gold Ribbon was not awarded. Mrs. Chas. T. Bintz, Mrs. Irene Dunlap and Mrs. Lowell B. Taylor served as judges. Many superior plants were entered and a number of gold cup awards were given.

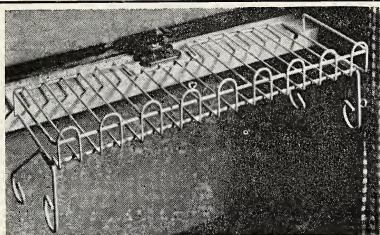
● **THE CEDAR VALLEY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB** of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, held its sixth annual show on April 12 and 13, 1957, in the auditorium of the Public Library. The theme of the show was "Around the World with Saintpaulias." Mrs. Herbert won the National Gold Ribbon. The Purple Ribbon was won by Mr. George Wessale. Mrs. Arthur Young won a blue ribbon for an educational display, and Mr. George Wessale was given a blue ribbon for the most artistic display. Judges were Mrs. George Buresh, Mrs. Paul Rieke, and Mrs. Fred Williamson. Mr. George Wessale was show chairman.

● **THE BEATRICE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** of Beatrice, Nebraska, held its fifth annual show April 6 and 7, 1957, at the Municipal Auditorium with Mrs. Harold Moren as chairman. The theme of the show, "The Sixty-fifth Anniversary of Violets," was carried out by a scroll displaying the history of African violets.

● **THE SONOMA COUNTY AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** held its first African violet show April 28, 1957, in the Franklin Park Club House, Santa Rosa, California. The exhibit was free to the public and was non-competitive. Exhibit chairman was Mrs. Fred Babbino.

● Sacramento's sixth annual show, sponsored by **THE SACRAMENTO AND CAPITAL CITY SAINTPAULIA SOCIETIES**, was held April 13 and 14, 1957, in the Clunie Clubhouse at McKinley Park. The theme of the show was "Violet Jewels of Africa." Mrs. Walter Figaro, chairman of the show, had the best plant in the show. Mrs. Alton P. Knapp won first in the commercial division. Mrs. Arthur Edman and Mrs. John Lund also won firsts for their plants. Walter Figaro took the sweepstakes in arrangements, and won the Safari trophy.

● **THE BALTIMORE AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB** of Baltimore, Maryland, held its annual show on May 2 and 3, 1957, with the theme "Calendar of Violets." Twelve baskets of violets represented the twelve months of the year. Queen of the show, a plant of Pink Victoria, was entered by Mrs. Elsie Creswell and she won the silver tray. Mrs. Creswell's plant of Airwaves won the silver bowl award. Mrs. Betty Deckleman won the sweepstakes prize of a silver tray, and Mrs. Myrtle Kimrey won the silver serving fork as runner-up. Mrs. Tillie Liembach received a silver serving spoon for the best arrangement. Mrs. Helen Merker and Mrs. Betty Deckleman received prizes for arrangements.



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● **THE LONG ISLAND AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** presented its third annual show on May 4 and 5, 1957, in the VFW Building of Freeport, Long Island. Mrs. Alexander Colyer of Brightwaters was show chairman. "Violet Hit Parade" was used as the theme of the show. Queen of the show was entered by Mrs. John Nirmaier of Brightwaters. Mrs. George Gillen of Lynbrook won runner-up. Sweepstakes for both horticulture and arrangements was won by Mrs. Harold Robinson of Amityville. She also won the tri-color rosette in arrangements. Mrs. John Nirmaier won the New York state tri-color rosette with Mr. George Gillen as runner-up. The National Gold Award was given to Mrs. John Nirmaier and the National Purple Award went to Mrs. Oliver Wyckoff, Jr.

● **THE TRI COUNTY AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** held its third annual show, May 10 and 11, 1957, at the Grange Hall in Glen Falls, New York. The theme was "Violets Make Sweet Music." Mrs. Florence Webber won the three top awards, queen of the show, queen runner-up, and sweepstakes. Mrs. Elsie Stamper won sweepstakes runner-up. Mrs. Mynard Smith won first in arrangements, Mrs. Ann Mabry won second. The New York state award went to Mrs. Ernest Miller; second to Miss Marjorie Sexton who was show chairman.

● **THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** of Bay County, Florida, held its second show May 4 and 5, 1957, at Panama City, Florida. Show chairman was Mrs. A. W. Aldridge, co-chairman, Mrs. C. W. King. The theme of the show was "Violets - Heralds of Spring." Judges were Mrs. R. M. Pyle, Jr., Mrs. F. M. Turner, Jr., Mrs. Fela McAllister, Miss Margaret Malloy of Pensacola, Florida, and Mrs. Felix Moates, Mrs. Bessie Loslander, of Panama City.

● **THE DES MOINES AFRICAN VIOLET CLUBS I AND II** held their third annual show at the Water Works Park, Des Moines, Iowa, April 27 and 28, 1957. Theme of the show was "Violet Treasures," and a beautiful gold chest filled with violets of many hues was exhibited. Sweepstakes winner was Mrs. Charles Bump. Mrs. Milo J. Thornton won the National Gold Ribbon Award. Mrs. Leo Brown won best plant and largest plant. Mrs. Frank Gollon had the winning composition depicting the theme of the show. Show judges were; Mrs. Lyle Pierce of Britt, Iowa; Mrs. Fred Williamson of Cedar Rapids; and Mrs. Harold E. White, Des Moines.

● **THE TOWN AND COUNTRY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB** held its annual show at Kokomo, Indiana, with the theme "Violets Around the World." The National Gold Ribbon award went to Mrs. Herman Hedrick, the Purple Ribbon Award went to Mrs. Harold Roth. Judges for the show were

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Mrs. Charles Stoebr of Greenwood, Ind.; Mrs. James Bailey of Angola, and Mrs. Albert Baumunk of Millersport, Ohio. Chairman of the show was Mrs. Paul Hooker.

● **THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF ROCHESTER, NEW YORK**, held its ninth annual show May 6, 1957, at the Museum of Arts and Sciences. Mrs. Edward Casey won queen of the show with a plant of White Pride. Mrs. Casey also won sweepstakes. Runner-up to sweepstakes was Mrs. Fred Flory of Geneseo; third in line was Lewis Cook of Gainesville.

● **THE UNION COUNTY CHAPTER AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** of New Jersey, held its fourth annual show at the Masonic Temple in Westfield, New Jersey, May 3 and 4, 1957. The theme of the show was "Africana." Queen of the show was a plant of Snow Prince entered by Mrs. Hugh K. Dunn. The sweepstakes award went to Mrs. Glen B. Hudson. Mrs. H. Secor served as show chairman.

● **THE CLEVELAND SAINTPAULIA and DUBONNET SAINTPAULIA SOCIETIES** held their seventh annual violet show May 6 and 7, 1957, at Sterling-Lindner-Davis Co. Theme of the show was "Showers of Violets for Mother." Queen of the show award went to Mrs. Jos. Harbak and sweepstakes went to Mrs. Paul Jasko. Judges were, Mrs. Eddington, Clinton, Ohio; Mrs. Bircher and Mrs. Courtney of Canton, Ohio. Vera C. Sinnott served as show chairman.

● **THE PARADISE GREEN SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY** of Stratford, Connecticut, held its second annual show May 4 and 5, 1957, in the auditorium of the Garden Exchange, Trumbull, Connecticut. The theme of the show was "Show Time With Violets." A large show train in the colors of aqua and red was the centerpiece.

● **THE RALEIGH AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY**, Raleigh, North Carolina, held its second annual show March 23 and 24, 1957, at the Western Boulevard Community Center. "Cascade of Violets" was the theme of the show. Mrs. O. D. Fleming, Jr., was sweepstakes winner. Mrs. M. J. Silvers served as show chairman. Mrs. R. R. Blackburn, Mrs. B. W. Hackney, Jr., and Mrs. D. P. Whitley of High Point, North Carolina, were the judges.

● **THE SIOUXLAND AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** held its sixth annual show in the Sheraton-Martin Hotel, May 4, 1957. There were displays to illustrate the theme "An Old Fashioned Garden."

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● **THE PIONEER AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** of Norfolk, Virginia, held its fifth annual show on May 18 and 19, 1957, at the New Garden Center building. Mrs. R. W. Schoolcraft was sweepstakes winner. The National Gold Ribbon Award went to Mrs. J. H. Miller. The Purple Award went to Mrs. R. W. Schoolcraft. Judges for the show were Mrs. C. Morgan, Mrs. Robert Ruddick, Mrs. J. T. Lumley and Mrs. Harry Billups. The theme of the show was "Echoes of Jamestown."

● The seventh annual African violet show of the **TWIN CITIES** was held at the Golden Rule of St. Paul, Minnesota on March 28, 1957. Mrs. Douglas Fell of the Falion Heights Hi-Loa Club, St. Paul, and Mrs. D. J. Harrington, Cinderella Club, Minneapolis, were in charge of the propagation section. Mrs. F. A. Filipczak, Florodora Club, St. Paul, had charge of publicity, assisted by Mrs. John Elliott, Cinderella Club, Minneapolis. Twenty Clubs were represented. Mrs. Monroe Trapp served as show chairman.

● **THE FIRST AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** of Dallas, Texas, held its third annual African violet show at Lambert Landscaping Co., Dallas, Texas, March 2 and 3, 1957. The theme of the show was "Violets Through the Ages." Mrs. L. Clyde Williams won the National Gold Ribbon Award; Mrs. Theodore Russell won the National Purple Ribbon Award; Mrs. L. Clyde Williams won the sweepstakes with nine blue ribbons. Judges were Mrs. Howard Estes and Mrs. Howard E. Albright, both of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and Mrs. F. R. Horton of Dallas. Mrs. J. W. Hoffmann was show chairman.

● **THE GENERAL PUTNAM AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** of Norwalk, Connecticut, held its second annual African violet show at the Norwalk High School Gymnasium, April 26 and 27, 1957. The theme of the show was "Sweeter Than Springtime." Mrs. Ralph S. Seeley served as show chairman.

● **THE LOS ANGELES AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** held its seventh annual show May 10 and 11, 1957. The theme chosen was "African Violets in Fairyland." The National Gold Ribbon Award was won by Mrs. Mabel Guttridge. Mrs. Gutridge also won sweepstakes. Mrs. Orlena Gerichs entered the prize winning theme entry. Queen of the show was a gorgeous plant of Pink Waverly. Show chairman was Mrs. Norma Wood.

● **THE HAPPY HOURS AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** of Hawthorne, New Jersey, held its first annual show May 11, 1957. The theme was "A Circus of Fun With Violets." Mr. Frank J. Taylor won queen of the show with a plant of White Madonna. Mrs. Charles Leigh won first prize for a display carrying out the theme of the show. Judges were Mrs. Carl Sachs of Cliffside Park, N. J.; Mrs. John Couser of Berkeley Heights, N. J.; and Mrs. Clarence Howard of Westfield, N. J. Mrs. Harold Johnston served as show chairman.

● **THE FAIRVIEW AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** of Norfolk, Virginia, held its second annual show at Green-Gifford Showrooms, May 11 and 12, 1957. "Violets Are Sweethearts" was the theme of the show and was featured by a three by four foot heart draped and ruffled in pink tulle. This was arranged by Mrs. Helen Morgan and Mrs. Pauline Banks and won a blue ribbon. Mrs. Helen Morgan won the National Gold Ribbon Award and the Purple Ribbon Award, also sweepstakes. Mrs. Virginia Cherry was sweepstakes runner-up. Judges were Mrs. J. H. Miller; Mrs. Ruth Sadler, of Norfolk; and Mrs. H. E. Billups of Virginia Beach.

Editor's Note: Show pictures had to be held for the December Magazine.

Dear Friends:

Just a few DO'S and DON'TS for the Show News and Views page. Please refer to this when you send in your show news and it will help me to give you better service. Deadline dates are Sept. 1 for Dec. issue; Dec. 1 for March issue; March 1, for June issue; June 1, for Sept. issue.

DO NOT SEND NEGATIVES. Send only sharp gloss prints.

Mail prints between heavy cardboard.
DO NOT SEND NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS.

Write out your story in not more than two hundred words.

BE SURE to tell me **WHERE, WHEN** the show was held and the names of those in pictures.

DO NOT ASK FOR SPACE TO BE RE-SERVED.

My best wishes for your shows to come.

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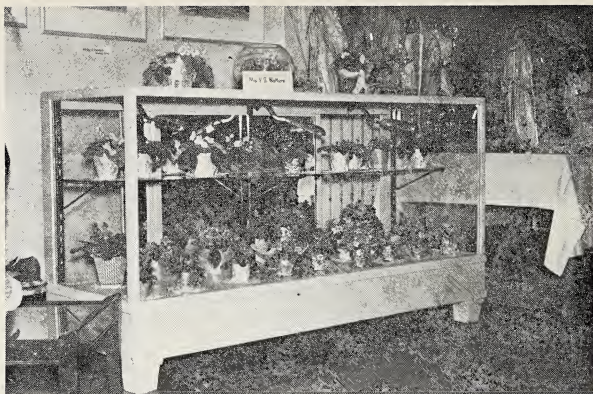
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LOVE IN BLOOM

Alice G. Watters, Lancaster, New Brunswick, Canada

Who can deny that we have "Love in Bloom" with such couples as Show Man and Show Lady, Gay Coquette and Glamor Boy, Gypsy Rosa and Gypsy Prince, Sea Sprite and Neptune, Kansas City Girl and Mr. Chicago, Philadelphia Belle and Texas Goliath, Sailor Boy and Sailor Girl, and many others. They are all so rewarding with their beautiful blooms, when grown with a little understanding and common sense.

A porous soil is best for violets, but perhaps the soil is not so important as the quantity of water and when to use it. We read that Saintpaulias in their wild state were growing in many types of soil, and even growing in rock crevices. Water your violets only when they need it, and only as much as the soil will absorb. Common sense tells us that if the soil is already damp it does not need more water. You are asking for trouble if you over-water.

Plants bloom better when potted in small pots, overpotting induces crown rot.

Proper light is the most important factor of all to promote blooms. Any window exposure is good, and your blooming problem is solved if you have light pouring in from two exposures.

I have been raising violets for ten years and I have them under fluorescent lights in the basement, and on every window sill in the living quarters, on tables, stands, and mantles, altogether about one thousand plants representing over two hundred and fifty varieties.

I have exhibited my violets at several local shows, and the interest shown indicates a great future for the demure Saintpaulia in this locality. The picture was taken of my violet display at a show of crafts and flowers sponsored annually by a church group in Saint John, New Brunswick.

Having sold violets from my home for several years, I have met many violet addicts, and many expressed the wish for a local society. In September 1956 a few interested ladies met at my home and we formed the Loyalist African Violet Society of New Brunswick. We have been meeting each month since then in the homes of the members, even on the coldest night of the year, when the temperature dropped to thirty degrees below zero. That night my husband consented to drive some of the ladies to the meeting, and as he was going to the garage, I heard him say, "All this for a darned Saintpaulia. Why didn't Baron Walter von Saint Paul stay at home?"

THE END

Doris Leigh

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EAST HUNTINGTON AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY

Huntington, West Virginia

The twelve members of the East Huntington African Violet Society are a very active group, and pleased that their funds have permitted them to purchase some supplies which were much needed at the Morris Memorial Hospital, and that they were able to contribute to the Boyce Edens Research Fund, and to the fund for establishing a scholarship at Marshall College under the supervision of Dr. Howard L. Mills, for further research on African violets. It was particularly pleasing to them that they could contribute to the Marshall College fund as back in 1954 they visited the violet laboratories at Marshall College, and Dr. Mills gave them a talk on African violets. Since then Dr. Mills has visited their club and shown slides, and explained the different types of soils and lighting. Now they are looking forward to another visit to Marshall College in March.

To raise funds for all these worth while causes they sell dish cloths, garden gloves, candy and wash cloths all year round, on which they receive a commission. At each monthly meeting they have a "Pig in the Poke," a wrapped gift which is sold at twenty-five cents a chance. The winner brings the "Pig" for the next meeting. Once a year a White Elephant sale is held, to which each member brings a package which is auctioned off, and this past January they had a rummage sale which netted a nice sum.

Not all activity is work, though, as there is an annual dinner, a wonderful Christmas party, and during the summer months picnics are held. One of the games most enjoyed at some of the meetings is when they put violet blooms or violet leaves on cards and each one tries to name them. The winner is the recipient of a lovely violet plant.

During the year at some of the meetings the African Violet Magazine articles are reviewed; slides of African violets are shown; there is a violet exchange; and at the May meeting, after the installation of officers, they have a work shop at which they make up soil, and each member goes home with about a bushel of soil all set to transplant her violets.

Although the club is small there is much activity all the time, and everyone enjoys the meetings.

THE END

For Sale — An Orlyte free standing greenhouse 13'5" x 13'9", write for details.

There are still available a few copies of "The Handbook for African Violet Growers" minus the color chart for \$1.25.

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1958 CATALOG

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YOUR LIBRARY

Maisie Yakie, Librarian, P. O. Box 674
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Peggie Rios, Assistant to the Librarian

It is with a great deal of pleasure that your Librarian is able to announce that since the last column in this series appeared, we have added to the Library six (6) new slide programs, including two of the 1957 Cincinnati Convention. We have also obtained slides toward two more programs that perhaps we shall soon have completed. Four of these six new programs were made possible through the kindness of two friends of the Society and the Library, Miss Janice Rohatsch and Mrs. Grace Grissom, both of Houston, Texas. These two wonderful ladies took some 250 slides for the Library during their tour to the recent Convention, at which time they visited many of the prominent growers in that part of the country. When we stop to realize how many hours went into the taking of those slides, many of them very late at night and some of them in greenhouses where the water was ankle deep and more dripping from the ceiling, we can truly appreciate the kindness and mutual love of violets that prompted their generosity of time and talent. The other two sets were made by Mr. and Mrs. Sam Nichols who worked long and late and tirelessly to get all the Convention pictures for our slide programs on that subject. We wish to publicly express the appreciation to these people for their hard work in behalf of all of us who will view these slides with pleasure in the future.

We also wish to thank Mrs. R. E. (Miriam) Lightburn, of Bernardsville, N. J. for her gift of the book "Genetics — A Survey of the Principles of Heredity," by A. M. Winchester, to the Library. This is available to any member of the Society, and we feel that for all those who are interested in genetics it is a worthwhile subject of study. Your generosity and thoughtfulness is warmly appreciated, Mrs. Lightburn.

And while we are thanking the many kind and wonderful people who have worked for the pleasure and benefit of all of us in behalf of the Library, let us thank publicly the many commercial growers who threw open the doors to their greenhouses and spent much time with us so that many of the new slides could be made, who allowed us to move and photograph their Convention Show plants, and who cooperated one and all so kindly with us. Included in this group should certainly be Mrs. Priscilla Landaker who helped us work the Convention Shows at a time when it would be easiest for us. We have said it before to all of you, but let us say it again "Thanks so very much!"

The slide programs now available from your Library are as follows: Carter's Greenhouses; Tinari's Greenhouses; Fischer's Greenhouses; Saintpaulias in Review; Let's Visit Alma Wright; Violets Visiting; The Violet Beautiful; Insects, Diseases, Pests and Propagation (slides only); Chicago Convention, 1952; Nashville Convention, 1953; St. Louis Convention, 1954; Pittsburgh Convention, 1955; Minneapolis Convention, 1956; Insects, Pests, etc. (Illustrated lecture with 38 slides and written material to form a lecture); Kansas City Show 1956; What's New; North of the Border; Kansas City Show 1957. AND THE FOLLOWING NEW PROGRAMS:

Arrangements featuring African Violets and African Violets in Unusual Containers (this is the slide program toward which we have been working for many months. It now has 51 slides, all of good quality and good subject matter. More will be added as they are available.)

Potpourri (includes slides of plants from Tonkale's, Lyon's, Fischer's, Madison Gardens, Granger's, Baxter's)

Magic Carpet (includes slides of plants from Lakin's, Scott's, Markley's, Peterson's)

7 League Boots (includes slides of plants from Granger's, Select Violet House, Buynak's, Richter's, Tay-Bow, Haga, Griffens, Wilson's, Tinari's)

Cincinnati Convention (includes slides of both amateur and commercial shows).

We are listing below the rules for use of the Library material. Inasmuch as the mail for the Library runs to some 150 pieces per month, more or less, we would be most appreciative if these rules could be read and adhered to as closely as possible since they will allow us to serve you better and more efficiently with less worry for all.

COLOR SLIDES

The Society has available to Local Affiliated Chapters of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. 35 mm. color slides for club programs.

Because of the growing popularity of our color slide and recording programs, the following regulations are necessary:

1. Affiliated Chapters in good standing are eligible to borrow slides.
2. Reservations shall be made in the name of the Affiliated Chapter by the Chapter president.
3. Programs must be postmarked on the return due date specified.
4. All written material must be returned.
5. A \$1.00 postal fee is payable at the time the request for all programs is made, when

borrowed by Affiliated Chapters, the fee to other than Affiliated Chapters is \$5.00.

6. All programs returned to the Librarian must be via registered mail, and to the address indicated on the package.
7. Chapters are eligible for only four (4) color slide programs each calendar year.
8. Three (3) months reservation is absolutely necessary, and reservations should be confirmed by the Librarian.
9. Only one (1) film program may be borrowed for a meeting. When two or three programs are requested, only one request will be filled.
10. Special requests will be filled when possible. However, the Librarian reserves the right to substitute for scheduled programs when necessary. Please, no telegraphs or telephone calls about substitutions.
11. Failure to return programs promptly, to return written material, cost-for-sending postage or registering package of necessity will incur a penalty — penalty, the loss of borrowing privileges by the Chapter for one year. This is necessary in order that we may meet our schedule of promises to those Chapters who comply with the rules.

YEAR BOOK COLLECTIONS

1. Only Affiliated Chapters in good standing are eligible to borrow Year Book Collections.
2. A \$1.00 postal fee is payable at the time the request for all Year Book Collections is made.
3. Year Book Collections are loaned for a period of one month from date of mailing.
4. Year Book Collections are to be returned via insured mail, or insured parcel post, on the due date specified, to the address of the Librarian.

PROGRAM PACKETS

1. The Society has made this material available to Affiliated Chapters and to Society members who wish to use same in preparing program material to further the public interest in Saintpaulias.
2. A \$1.00 postal fee is payable at the time the request for all Program Packets is made.
3. Program Packets are to be returned via First Class Mail on the date specified to the address of the Librarian.
4. Reservations for Program Packets will be confirmed by the Librarian.

MAGAZINES, BOOKS, PERIODICALS

1. The Society has made this material available to Affiliated Chapters and Society members who wish to use it in preparing program material or for increasing their own knowledge of Saintpaulias, and related subjects.

2. Each book, magazine, periodical, etc. will be loaned for a period of one month from the date of post shown, and are to be returned via fourth class mail to the address of the Librarian.
3. A 50¢ postal fee for each book, magazine, periodical, etc. is payable in advance at the time the request is made.

IN EVERY LETTER TO THE LIBRARIAN, PLEASE GIVE CLUB NAME AND FULL INFORMATION AS TO MATERIAL REQUESTED, DATES DESIRED AND/OR CLUB MEETING DATES WHERE MATERIAL IS NEEDED FOR PROGRAM PURPOSES. THIS WILL HELP THE LIBRARIAN TO BETTER SERVE YOU.

We are actively soliciting good slides for the following three programs: Gesneriads, Saintpaulia Species, and Shows Around the Country (which would cover slides of any displays, arrangements, or individual plants from your local club shows). These slides may be donated to the Library by mailing them to your Librarian at the address on page 66.

Inasmuch as we have taken up so much space with this column already we will not list the usual program suggestions; instead we suggest that your club program chairman consider the use of at least one of these slide programs in the very near future. Next time we will have some good program suggestions picked up at the recent Convention.

THE END

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REGISTRATION REPORT . . .

Constance Hansen, Registrar, Box 302, Lafayette, California

PART I

The following applications for registration have been received during the period from March 1, 1957, to June 1, 1957:

PLANT AND REGISTRANT

PURPLE RAJAH (888) 4/15/57, Bert S. Rosenbaum, Route 4, Box 80, Mobile, Alabama.

ELDUS (889) 4/15/57, Mrs. Robert Hatley, City Lake Drive, Route 3, Albemarle, North Carolina.

FRATHEL'S MARDI-GRAS (890), **FRATHEL'S DEBBIE** (891) 4/8/57, Mrs. Violet Frathel, 252 Clay Avenue, Rochester 13, New York.

EASTER VIOLET (892) 4/15/57, **EBBIE A RICHMOND** (897) 5/15/57, Mrs. Leon Kirschenbaum, 421 Morrissey Road, Neptune, New Jersey.

CHAUTAUQUA COQUETTE (893) 5/20/57, **CHAUTAUQUA FLUTE** (898) 6/1/57, Mrs. E. C. Underwood, 243 Lakeside Drive, Bemus Point, New York.

ANN HOFMANN PINK (894) 5/10/57, Mrs. W. A. Simmons, 202 North 23rd Street, Omaha, Nebraska.

MR. DOCTOR (895), **MRS. DOCTOR** (896) 5/20/57, Mrs. A. C. Hofsommer, 639 Lee Avenue, Webster Groves 19, Missouri.

PART II

The following name reservations have been received during this period:

Fire
Corrine
My Choice
My Sin

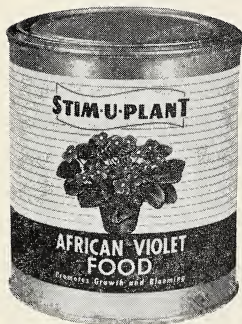
Executive
Challenge
Midnight Angel
Roman Pink

True Love
Frosted Girl
Moonlight Mist
Frilly Dilly

Plymouth
Pink Pagoda,
Black Pagoda

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AFRICAN VIOLET FOOD



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This new size container brings you the same balanced 5-8-7 analysis Stim-U-Plant African Violet Food which is used by successful growers nation-wide. A tested formulation of pure ingredients, Stim-U-Plant dissolves completely, leaving no residue.

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GROWER'S SPECIAL

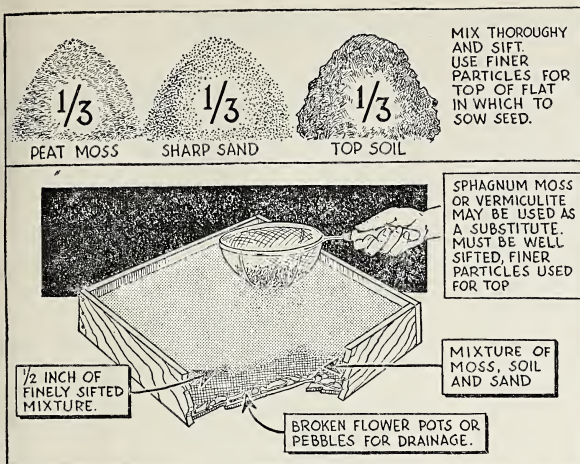
FREE
36 STARTER PACKETS

With the 5 lb. Grower's Special, you get 36 starter packets of Stim-U-Plant African Violet Food. Give these with your new plants as a special bonus and start new violet hobbyists off on the right foot. Free "Care and Growing" booklets also included. Ask about our free sampling plan for your club meetings, shows and other functions.

Enclose check or money order please.

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SAND SOIL and PEAT

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the Maryland Gardener.

FOR INDOOR USE

Success in growing seeds in an indoor seed box will depend to a great extent upon the soil used to fill the box. If this was not brought inside before the ground froze in the fall, it should be dug, and placed under shelter where it will thaw out gradually.

If you try to dry soil quickly, with considerable heat, you will make it very muddy at first, and lumpy thereafter. This will be difficult when what you want is a crumbly soil. Slow thawing will do the work, so do not try to rush things.

Even though you have taken the best top soil from your garden -- as you should -- it will still need mixing with sand to make it looser, and humus to increase its water holding capacity. Peat moss or leaf mould will supply satisfactory humus, but do not use manure, even when well rotted, in soil to be used to start seeds. Nor should plant food be used, lest too much nitrogen be supplied for the health of the seed sprouts.

A third top soil, a third peat moss or leaf mould, and a third sharp sand, such as masons use in concrete, will make a satisfactory mixture. After it is well mixed pass it through a sieve, about one-fourth inch mesh; and keep the coarser particles in a pile, to be used in the bottom of the seed boxes. The finer soil is then filled in the level of the box; it will settle quickly.

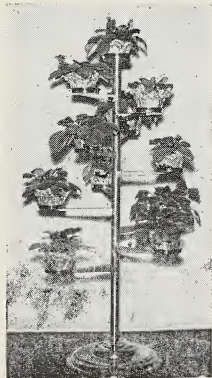
Sphagnum moss may be spread in a layer on top of the soil as a means of protecting the seedlings from "damping off" and other diseases. If soil is prepared by this method, there will be no need for feeding the seedling plants until they have reached transplanting size.

Two substitutes for soil which may be used in seed boxes are vermiculite, a form of mica used to insulate buildings, and sphagnum moss.

These are sterile substances which have many advantages, being much lighter than soil; but they are entirely lacking in plant food and if used the plants must be fed as soon as they have made true leaves, (their second pair) with water, in each gallon of which a tablespoon of your garden plant food has been stirred.

THE END

SPUNALUM'S NEW "Swing-a-Way" PLANT STAND



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STUNNING! Holds 11 plants in 5-inch trays -- each tray holding pot up to 6-inch standard. 48" High. Distance from floor to bottom arm is 15-inches. Arms can be "swung-away" for best arrangement in appearance or for sunning. Base and arm trays are shining spun aluminum easily kept like new. Stand made entirely of rust-proof aluminum . . . light and easy to handle. So perfectly balanced, it's difficult to tip.

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BUYER'S GUIDE REPORT

The Buyer's Guide Committee composed of the following members: Mrs. Sam Nichols, Madison, Tennessee, Chairman; Mrs. D. E. Cabbage, Glenshaw, Pennsylvania, Secretary; Mrs. William Rodda, Ossian, Indiana; Mrs. Charles Stoehr, Greenwood, Indiana; Mrs. Charles T. Buckner, Pleasant Hill, Missouri; wish to report that they will have two extra special treats for you in the December Magazine. One the "Buyer's Guide Preferred List" which is a listing of the names and descriptions of the plants the committee likes best at this time. The other will be an article on "Name and Plant Duplications and Similarities," which several of you have requested us to compile. We are sure that there will be more plant names in this story than anyone had imagined.

Please bear in mind that it is almost impossible for any group of five people to be familiar with all the names and varieties of African violets everywhere. We would be most happy if you would help us. If you know of a plant you like very much . . . won't you write and tell us about it? We would also like for you to send in the names of duplicate plants you are familiar with, and the names of duplicate or similar varieties you have seen or grown.

Remember too, it is impossible for all commercial growers, who live in entirely different sections of the country, to know what name another grower living several hundred miles away — may have recently used. What variety he may be introducing that he feels is so new and different, but to the African violet public it is very, very similar to another new variety just being put on the market by another commercial

grower many miles away. We are doing all we know to do to help in this matter and we hope that you will urge all growers with whom you come in contact to consult the Registration Committee before using a name. This will reduce the likelihood of a name being used twice. Mrs. Hansen will be most happy to advise you if your selection has not been used.

At present there are many instances where the grower's name has been attached to the plant name in an effort to clear up which plant is which. For example: Fischer's Pandora and Granger's Pandora. Unless the name Fischer or Granger is always used on the plant label it is difficult for the amateur collector to distinguish between these two fine plants. You have to know the plant and their individual characteristics before you can tell which is which unless the growers name is also used. Don't you feel that it would be most helpful . . . and a wonderful step in the right direction if one of these good commercial friends would just select another name for his or her lovely violet? Then it would not be necessary to have to see the variety before you buy or to know whether it has girl foliage or is plain or whether it carries single or double blossoms. The name would tell you.

We feel that all commercial growers are as anxious as we are to clarify the name situation and that they will be more than happy to cooperate when name confusion is called to their attention. It is their aim as well as ours to promote African violets and to increase public interest in them.

THE END

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A CONFUSION IN AFRICAN VIOLETS

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In 1947 I applied the name *Saintpaulia diplotricha* (see Gard. Chron. 3 ser. cxxii, 23: 19 July 1947) to a cultivated plant that had been long passing as *S. kewensis* C. B. Clarke. However, on the usually sound principle that a new species should be based, whenever possible, on a wild specimen, Buchwald 149 from the Usambara Mountains was designated as the type. This Herbarium specimen agreed with the cultivated plant in being a species with rosette habit and hairs of two distinct lengths on the upper surface of the leaf; the fruit is cylindric and 1-1.3 cm. long. Those were the features by which the species *S. diplotricha* was chiefly characterized.

Knowledge of the genus *Saintpaulia* is, however, expanding rapidly. Further introductions from East Africa show that the indumentum of the leaves requires even closer study. It is not sufficient to distinguish between long hairs on the one hand and a mixture of long and short on the other. The double indumentum may be of two kinds. Some plants have longish spreading hairs on the upper surface of the leaf, and between the long hairs a dense but inconspicuous covering of very short erect hairs. The latter may be difficult to see when looked at vertically as they are quite translucent; they are best seen if a cut edge of the leaf is viewed horizontally. In other plants the long hairs are loosely appressed and the short hairs more strongly so — in fact they are curved over so that the tip of the hair touches the leaf surface. It now becomes evident, too, that these differences in hairy covering are associated with other differences: the plant with erect hairs has rather thickish,

but softer, purplish leaves in comparison with the thinner, but firmer, green leaves of the plant with appressed hairs. The latter represents the species that has long been in cultivation. In herbarium specimens hairs tend to be artificially appressed but careful re-examination of the type specimen of *S. diplotricha* shows that the short hairs are still characteristically erect, and it also appears to have had purplish leaves. There is no doubt that it belongs to the other, erect-haired type. This has now been introduced into cultivation and lays rightful claim to the name *S. diplotricha*. As a consequence, we must unfortunately make another change in the name of the long-cultivated plant with appressed hairs and it is now proposed to call it *S. confusa*.

Since 1947 there has become available a number of wild-collected herbarium specimens which seem to be referable to this species. But it would be foolish not to learn the lesson of this mistake that now has to be corrected. *Saintpaulia confusa* is therefore based on the cultivated plant. Fuller descriptions of both species will be included in a general review of *Saintpaulia* now in preparation.

Saintpaulia confusa B. L. Burtt, sp. nov. indumento foliorum *S. magungensi* Roberts et *S. amaniensi* Roberts similis sed foliis congestis habitu rosulato recedit. A *S. diplotricha* B. L. Burtt, quacum adhuc *confusa*, pilis brevibus in pagina superiore foliorum appressis nec erectis et foliis viridibus tenuioribus sed firmioribus distinguatur.

Typus speciei: planta in hort. reg. bot. Kew: anno 1947 culta (holotype: Edinburgh; isotypes: Kew, Bailey Hortorium).

THE END

WATERING PLANTS

Helen Thompson, Ottawa, Canada

Ever water your plants when the temperature is dropping? It can be quite harmful.

It is best to water in the early part of the morning when the temperature is rising. If, however, your plants have been left in the sun or have become overly hot from being by a radiator, remove them to another part of the room until they have reached room temperature, and use water which is a little warmer than the room temperature.

If you try not to allow your plants to get excessive heat or too much sun, they will be much thriftier.

THE END



on house and garden plants

This powerful spray insecticide kills mealy bugs, aphids, white flies, thrip and other plant insects. Just press the button! A fine spray kills instantly. I-BOMB, manufactured by horticultural experts, is economical for one or many plants. It's recommended for African Violets, ivies, and other garden and house plants. Won't burn bloom or foliage. Harmless to pets and children. \$1.59 at your dealer . . . or order direct.

PLANT MARVEL LABORATORIES

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MAY I SHARE IT WITH YOU?

Lela M. Burton, Arkansas City, Kansas

This is the twenty-fifth anniversary of my introduction to a tiny African violet named Sailor Boy, and a twenty-fifth anniversary usually calls for a celebration. I know of no better way to celebrate than to share something with mutual friends, and what I have to share is some of the knowledge about African violets that I have gained through the years.

These lovely plants, although grown among a great variety of other tropical plants, have given me great joy, many interesting experiences, some distress, and a constant challenge to strive for perfection in their development. Many good books and fine articles have been written within the past ten years, but what I have to share with the readers of the African Violet Magazine is strictly from my own experience in growing them in my own home under natural light in south and west windows. A new east window has also proved to be a wonderful place to grow them. In the south and west windows they are grown with sunlight filtered through thin muslin curtains which are removed from the windows when the sun is not shining on them, giving them full light for as many hours as possible. Screens have been removed from the windows as they reduce the light approximately forty percent.

Occasionally I invite friends to an open house, and in April I entertained the two African violet clubs of Wichita. As these clubs came on different days, other violet clubs were invited to visit on intervening days. The statement which follows was written by a visitor in an article for her newspaper in a nearby city in Oklahoma: "Not only is her collection extensive, but what makes it so outstanding is the perfection of her plants. They are clean, healthy, with clear coloring, and symmetrical in form." This has been achieved through years of constant observation and experimentation.

All varieties of African violets do not thrive equally well under the same conditions. One must observe the likes and dislikes of these most human of all plants. Some may like more or less light; some an even temperature; while others like a ten-degree fluctuation, for instance seventy degree daytime temperature and sixty degrees at night. If you keep your plants next to the window this fluctuation naturally occurs. Some plants do better a foot away from the window as next to the glass their foliage may become too compact and take on a faded appearance. You may set such a plant several feet from

the window until it loosens up a bit and takes on better color, then allow it to grow in a position not as close to the window as previously. A north window with reflected sunlight is ideal as there is more even light and less fluctuation in temperature.

Plants will tell you their light requirements by the way they carry their foliage. If it spreads like a wheel horizontally, the light is correct; if the leaves grow upward, give it more light, that is, set the plant nearer the window. If the leaves hug the pot set the plant farther from the window, or better still, beneath the window if possible. When there is a tendency for the foliage to tip toward the window, always turn the plant around, keeping it symmetrical. A light meter is a handy gadget to check the light if you are one who worries on cloudy days, or if the sun seems too bright on your curtain. Six hundred to one thousand foot-candles of light is sufficient for good bloom. However, the intensity of light is not as important as the long hours of constant light. When our days grow longer the plants bloom more profusely, and do not require the strong light given them during the shorter winter days. Also from spring through November the the humidity is greater which encourages more bloom. I get the heaviest bloom in April and May.

During the winter months when our homes are heated constantly and the humidity is low we need a means of providing moisture for the plants as well as for ourselves. Forty to sixty percent humidity is fine for the violets and we humans are less apt to have respiratory diseases with such humidity. In summer months and especially during rainy seasons the humidity is much higher, often registering sixty to eighty percent which warns us to be careful in watering our plants. Do not water unless the soil feels dry to the touch. It is best to check daily and not to let the soil become too dry unless you wish the plants to rest during the summer months. With air conditioning the plants are not aware of the change of seasons and will continue to bloom. They can be forced to rest by withholding water for longer intervals and giving less light. Then in the fall when you want them to grow again a little fertilizer added to the water (one-fourth the amount directed) each time you water them for about three months will do wonders. If you have recently repotted them they will not need the fertilizer. If a healthy plant begins to develop yellow outer leaves that

fall away, it usually needs feeding. It cannot support all the foliage so it discards the outer-most leaves which are the oldest ones.

Overfeeding can cause stunt, that is grow too compact and tight in the center with brittle foliage. (If you have mite this center will be yellow looking.) Stunt from overfeeding can be treated successfully with lime water. Dissolving one-fourth teaspoon of hydrated lime in a table-spoonful of water and add this to about ten quarts of rain water. Use this each time you water the plant for about three months or until it is growing lush in the center. Blossoms will become deeper in color and the foliage becomes healthy, glossy and lush. Be sure that the fertilizer you use has a lower content of nitrogen than phosphorus for it is true that violets do not like a full measure of nitrogen. Too much nitrogen will encourage crown rot. I find the need of the lime treatment in the late winter after feeding heavily during the winter months when the days are shorter, especially if there has been much cloudy weather as in the past winter. Other house plants including ferns benefit by the lime treatment.

It is best to use rain water even if it may require catching and storing it or carrying it from neighboring cisterns. Treated tap water is used by some with a degree of satisfaction by letting it stand over night in an open container to allow the chlorine to evaporate.

African violets require a soil which is nearly neutral - 6.5 ph to 7 ph. Too acid a soil can cause a stunted condition which may be treated with the lime water. An inexpensive soil testing kit can be purchased to enable you to test your soil. I have experimented extensively with soil over the years and have finally come up with one that I have used for the past two years with great satisfaction. It is strictly organic and when it becomes necessary to use a fertilizer I make certain that it is also organic, thus eliminating pot rim crust. Here is the soil formula:

- 12 cups woods earth
- 12 cups moist coarse brown peat moss
- 12 cups vermiculite
- 2 cups dehydrated manure
- 1 cup powdered phosphorus rock
- 1 cup powdered potash rock
- ½ cup steamed bone meal
- 1 cup Pep-it or 1 teaspoon Activo
- 1 cup granulated charcoal

Sterilize the woods earth by placing it in a cake pan, sprinkle with two cups of rain water, and cover with foil to allow steaming. Place in the oven for one hour at two hundred and fifty degrees. Cool, stirring at intervals, preferably doing this out of doors where the air is circulating well. Mix the phosphorus, potash, bone meal and manure well and add to the other mixture. Moisten the peat moss by adding rain water gradually, working it and squeezing it until moist

but not excessively wet. Add it to the other mixture, mixing thoroughly. Over the top of this sprinkle the Pep-it or Activo. It sounds like a lot of mixing but it pays to do the job well. Let stand from twenty-four to thirty-six hours, stirring occasionally. Store in potato bags; this amount fills about two. I fasten the tops with clothes pins to prevent drying. The tiny holes in the sides of the bags will allow air to enter, but the soil will not dry from this. I have noted no shock from transplanting with this soil and

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I use it for all sizes of plants. They start off in a jiffy.

I root leaves in vermiculite. I choose a young mature leaf from a blooming plant, cut the stem one and one-half inches long and let it lay for thirty minutes or so to let the cut heal before inserting the leaf in vermiculite which has been moist for an hour. Leaves will root and develop plantlets more quickly if placed in small containers such as custard cups. Place them where the temperature will remain constant at about seventy-five degrees. When the plantlets are large enough to handle without much difficulty, I push them from the stem of the mother leaf leaving her to produce more babies. Then I separate the babies which have their own root systems. Leave any vermiculite on the roots that may cling to them, and set them gently into the planting mixture in two and one-quarter or two and one-half inch pots. Water thoroughly and set a few feet from a window for a few days, where the temperature is about what they have been used to. After that they may be placed near the window where an hour of early and late sun will be beneficial.

When potting with this soil mixture, which is very porous, be sure to set the plant well up in the pot for the soil will go down a little after a while. However, more soil may be added when necessary without injury to the plant if the leaf stems are not covered. About one-fourth inch of space should be left at the top of the pot to allow for watering. I have always watered my plants from the top of the pot. Saucer watering is soaking, and often leaves the soil too wet for too long a time. Crown rot develops under such conditions. Roots grow best in only moist soil where they have to reach for moisture. If you use clay pots you should place something in the saucer to allow the air to pass under the pot. Feeding will not be necessary for several months, and remember to use only organic fertilizer such as fish emulsion and many others. I have used Stim-U-Plant without rim trouble. Plants may remain in four to five inch pots for several years if kept single crown. Suckers which grow on the side may be removed when small before they grow enough to push over the main crown. Sometimes these can be rooted and allowed to make nice plants in small pots. An easy way to remove plants from pots when repotting is to soak the soil, then loosen slightly at the side of the pot with a small knife blade, then lift the plant out.

African violets may be grown to perfection in any type of container so long as it is neither too large nor too deep. Most of my collection

is growing in ceramic containers without drainage and have been for many years. Plants grown for collectors are kept in small clay pots. I do not ship plants. It is not necessary to waste space in the pot with drainage material if you will follow my instructions for potting and watering them. Set the plant high in the container and water thoroughly. Any excess water should be drained off. Then roll up a piece of Kleenex and lay it around the plant to absorb the excess moisture. You may even have to use more than one. Do not water again until the soil feels dry to the touch, then give only a small amount according to the size of the container. Always remember to check later and remove any excess moisture. You will soon learn to judge the proper amount. The shape of the plant can be controlled by the side the light comes from. A planter may be hung on the wall opposite a window six or eight feet from windows and still bloom profusely providing a constant source of pleasure and comment. Hat planters, which are so popular, when kept facing the room will allow the plants to grow into perfectly shaped hats. Try to choose varieties of plants that will compliment the container, both in color and name. There is no end to the joy that can be yours when you learn the technique of growing African violets in unusual containers.

In conclusion I would like to emphasize the importance of keeping your plants well groomed at all times. Have a regular time early each morning to attend to them. Keep the pods and empty stems removed from the plants. Turn them when needed. Check each for moisture content. An even moisture content will keep your plants blooming constantly. If you should find a plant that has become too dry and is at the wilting stage, add water gradually at ten minute intervals, bringing the plant back without shock. Remember never to leave water stand in the saucer more than thirty minutes.

Washing your plants now and then with slightly warmer water than room temperature is beneficial as the plants breathe through the tiny pores in the leaves. Be careful and keep water out of the center of the crown. Let the plant dry thoroughly before setting it back in the window or where sunlight may get on the foliage. If you use a cloth to dry it, just pat, do not rub. Water your plants with water the same temperature as the location of the plant. I have found this to be most important. A thermometer kept handy to test the water will make it easy and safe. In the window it is cooler than on a table a foot or more away. Watch for insects that may be carried in on the washing or on your clothing. Keep an insect bomb handy for those that sneak in. Keep ripening fruit such as apples and bananas away from the plants.

If this contribution has helped any of the readers of the African Violet Magazine to grow better African violets, it will have been a very happy way to celebrate this my twenty-fifth anniversary of growing the world's most popular house plant.

THE END

AFRICAN VIOLETS

Leaves	Rooted Cuttings	Small Plants
Newest varieties including Granger's new releases.		
White Goddess, Stephanie and Frivolous Pink, many others. Stamp for basic list or supplementary fall list.		

MRS. JAMES D. FOWLER

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Sheridan, Wyo.

OUR CLUB

Ladies of Our African Violet Clubs . . . I had something I meant to say . . . But now that I am on my feet . . . My wits have gone astray!

Let's see — African violets was my subject . . . Our medium of friendship and exchange . . . They need no introduction . . . Nor training to arrange.

All we need is a little imagination . . . When you make an arrangement . . . Remember to make it fit . . . Scale it for where it is going . . . And there let it sit.

Just a little over a century ago . . . Von Saint Paul-Illiare, of Germany, found . . . In the humid heat of Africa . . . Lovely violets growing lushly on the ground.

They sprang from cracks of limestone rocks . . . Near the mouth of the Sigi River . . . No doubt St. Paul was struck spellbound . . . With his senses all aquiver!

Now St. Paul really had struck it rich . . . But their future he could not know . . . He discovered and brought these flowers to us . . . That we love, and work to grow . . .

Their beauty is the handiwork of God . . . Surely no one will deny . . . And their lovely shades of pink and blue . . . Are akin to a summer's sky. The pioneer of organic gardens . . . Sir Albert Howard is the name . . . His formula — leaves, vegetable garbage, manure . . . With some lime — has brought his fame.

But it takes a combination of soil . . . Humidity, and light . . . Yet, unless we really love them . . . They will not bloom just right.

In Lebanon there are some members . . . Who

grow them very well . . . But just try to buy a plant of theirs . . . They haughtily refuse to sell. There is Corinne Bains from Watertown . . . Who grows them by the score . . . Talk about buying a plant from her . . . She acts like her head were sore! . . . On the other hand, surprising as it may seem . . . She will turn around and give you one . . . While her face will positively beam.

And Margaret and Mildred Bouton . . . Collect every color and kind . . . The neighbors say it takes all night . . . Their big collection to mind! The violets that Irene Evans grows . . . A washing tub would fit . . . She has a secret formula . . . But will not tell us it.

Now ladies, I'll ramble on a bit . . . Just a timely hint or two . . . Peat moss, with organic fertilizer . . . Mixed with sand will do — just magic tricks . . . For growing plants — right in your living room . . . But don't forget to give them light . . . Moving air, and gentle ventilation . . . Don't practice violet birth control . . . Let's speed up propagation . . . Our violets do have sex you know . . . But my interest is to make them grow.

Now again has come, the Easter season . . . Mother Earth's slip is showing, It is Spring . . . Let us lift our hearts, be thankful . . . Put aside each sordid thing.

As our daily chores we do . . . While we tend our violets too . . . Let us apply the Golden Rule . . . It works in or out of school.

Alice M. Cleveland
Lebanon, Tennessee

FLUOR-AL — THE ARISTOCRAT OF PLANT STANDS

The "Indoor Greenhouse" for growing and displaying African violets, gloxinias and other house plants. The FLUOR-AL may be used with or without fluorescent lights. Fixtures combining fluorescent and incandescent lights are now available (optional). The FLUOR-AL is constructed entirely of solid aluminum, with full size (nearly 20" x 52") aluminum trays for bottom watering. Provision is made for mounting an automatic time switch on the top bracket, thus combining all necessary accessories into one unit. Supplied complete with all wiring, extension cords, etc.

The FLUOR-AL is the most beautiful, most practical and highest quality of all "apartment greenhouses." You will be proud to show it to your friends and customers. An exclusive feature is the ease with which the lights may be adjusted up to a maximum height of nearly 18" above the trays.

A beautiful, well proportioned model is also available with two shelves.

Send post card for full details, prices and shipping information.

Send us your order for the new book GARDENING INDOORS UNDER LIGHTS by Frederic and Jacqueline Kranz. Full information for making and using equipment for growing flowers, vegetables and other plants by artificial light. 241 pages, plus 13 pages of illustrations, \$4.95 postpaid.

We are in position to supply the light fixtures combining fluorescent and incandescent light as described in this book as well as TIME-ALL automatic controls, soil mixes, compost, plastic markers, etc. Ask for price list.

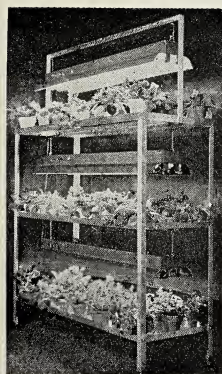
Also available — Peggie Schulz's book GROWING PLANTS UNDER ARTIFICIAL LIGHT. 146 pages, illustrated, \$3.50.

HARVEY J. RIDGE

1126 Arthur St.

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Wausau, Wis.





Club NEWS

MAXINE WANGBERG

14½ N. Central Ave., Harlowton, Montana

Deadline dates for Club News contributions: For September issue, June 1st; for December, September 1st; for March, December 1st; for June, March 1st.

The **AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF MOLINE, ILLINOIS, CHAPTER No. 1**, met on April 8, 1957, and elected the following officers for the coming year: president, Mrs. F. E. Minnick; vice-president, Mrs. Dewey Peal; secretary and treasurer, Mrs. Victor Hanks.

The club members have enjoyed several programs over the past year. These include several out of town visits to growers, colored slides of violet collections of club members, and a colored sound movie. This was given by James Liske showing the origin of African violets in Africa, the method of transplanting and dividing large plants, spraying for insects, and propagating new plants from leaf cuttings.

All members of this club are members of the National Society.

The **LANSING SAINTPAULIA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, LANSING, MICHIGAN**, elected the following officers at their March 6, 1957, meeting: president, Mrs. Dell Sherman; vice-president, Mrs. Harold Jipson; second vice-president, Mrs. Maude Canfield; secretary, Mrs. Ethel Johnson; treasurer, Mrs. Etta Jupin.

The **SAN GABRIEL VALLEY CHAPTER OF THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, SAN GABRIEL, CALIFORNIA**, held a pot luck luncheon at its June meeting, at which they installed the following officers for the year 1957-58: president, Mrs. Clifford McKeague; vice-president, Mrs. H. E. Nagel; second vice-president, Mrs. Stanley Doran; recording secretary, Mrs. John Mathews; corresponding secretary, Reba Trombatore; treasurer, Mrs. Ida Mae Kidwell.

The **SIOUX FALLS SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY OF SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA**, elected the following officers for 1957, at their February meeting: president, Mrs. Benjamin Levine; vice-president, Mrs. E. E. Seubert; secretary, Mrs. Russell Prince; treasurer, Mrs. Olaf Gulbrandson; historian, Mrs. T. S. Harkison.

The **BAY MINETTE AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, BAY MINETTE, ALABAMA**, elected the following officers for the coming year: president, Mrs. Joseph Martin; vice-president, Mrs. Alan Mott; secretary, Mrs. Horace White; treasurer, Mrs. Earl Remy; historian, Mrs. Telfair Mashburn.

The **AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF SONOMA COUNTY, SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA**, elected the following officers for the coming year: president, Mrs. Joseph Craig; first vice-president, Mrs. Edgar Bruce, second vice-president, Mrs. Roscoe Fouts; recording secretary, Mrs. Francis Lamb; corresponding secretary, Mrs. George Gilbert; treasurer, Mrs. Walter Abilgaard.

The **YAKIMA VALLEY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, WASHINGTON**, elected the following officers for the coming year: president, Mrs. H. O. Akin; vice-president, Mrs. Norwood Perry; secretary, Mrs. G. R. Jensen; treasurer, Mrs. E. H. McClain.

The **OMAHA AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, OMAHA, NEBRASKA**, elected the following officers for the ensuing year: president, Mrs. W. A. Simmons; vice-president, Mrs. W. L. Wiedner; recording secretary, Mrs. H. W. Martin; corresponding secretary, Mrs. F. R. Corson; treasurer, Mrs. E. H. Tuerk.

The **DES MOINES AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, No. 1, DES MOINES, IOWA**, elected the following officers for the year 1957-1958: president, Mrs. Leo Brown; vice-president, Mrs. Charles Bump; secretary, Mrs. Hoyt Naylor; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Paul Walters; treasurer, Mrs. R. L. Keleher.

During the past year the club sponsored the organization of the Des Moines African Violet Club No. 2.

In October 1956 a tour was made of three nearby cities to see violets of other club members.

The club participated in a plant display and sale at the Highland Park Home Show in November.

The Christmas meeting featured a plant exchange with a prize for the prettiest gift wrapped plant. The year closed with a June picnic.

The **SIOUXLAND AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, SIOUX CITY, IOWA**, elected the following officers at its May meeting, to be installed June 12, 1957, for the coming ensuing year: president, Mrs. Bruce Bellows; vice-president, Mrs. Homer Bradshaw; secretary, Mrs. Wayne Schlosser; treasurer, Mrs. Norman Shothower.

The **PINK CHEER VIOLET CLUB, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA**, elected the following officers for the coming year: president, Mrs. J. S. Newby; vice-president, Mrs. Henry Helms; secretary, Mrs. Edythe Jennings; treasurer, Mrs. Joseph Belcher.

The **PHOENIX AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, PHOENIX, ARIZONA**, elected the following new officers: president, Mrs. S. R. Stevens; vice-president, Mrs. Robert K. Baxter; secretary, Mrs. Florence Lego; treasurer, Mrs. M. J. Silverman.

The **FALCON HEIGHTS HI-LOA AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB OF ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA** elected the following officers for the coming year: president, Mrs. Arline Mohr; vice-president, Mrs. Grave Day; secretary and treasurer, Mrs. Stella Hervig.

The **JAMESTOWN AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, JAMESTOWN, NEW YORK**, held its annual meeting and luncheon at the Marvin Community House, on May 15, 1957. The following officers were installed for the coming year: president, Mrs. James R. Johnson; vice-president, Mrs. George Hall; secretary, Mrs. Vernon Burmeister; treasurer, Mrs. Charles Wuertzer.

The table was decorated with lavender and purple lilacs and red and yellow tulips. The entire home was filled with large bouquets of spring flowers. Arrangements were in charge of Mrs. Cornelius Zeestraten. Pens at each plate were favors given by Mrs. James R. Johnson. Mrs. Clarence Sandberg presided.

At the February meeting held at the YWCA, Mrs. Sandberg and Mrs. Arthur Agnew spoke on the grooming of plants for a show, and explained the point system in judging plants. They also explained in detail the Registered Variety Class in regard to the National African Violet Society rules.

The violet attendance prize, a Blue Ridge plant donated by Mrs. Agnew, was won by Mrs. Murray Smith.

Refreshments were served from a tea table beautifully arranged in keeping with Washington's Birthday. On a white drawn-work cloth a double white Coronation plant was surrounded with double blues intermingled with red floral tapers in an antique tureen flanked by lighted red candles.

The committee in charge included Mrs. Barrett, chairman, assisted by Mrs. Paul Seeley, Mrs. James Johnson and Mrs. Murray Smith.

The **PIONEER AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF NORFOLK, VIRGINIA**, celebrated its fifth anniversary May 9, 1957. The picture portrays the birthday cake at the celebration. The following officers were elected for the coming year: president, Mrs. C. M. Ward; vice-president, Mrs. R. W. Schoolcraft; recording secretary, Mrs. J. H. Miller; corresponding secretary, Mrs. A. L. Lupia; treasurer, Mrs. C. W. Diggs.



Left to right, Mrs. Edna Cheatham, Mrs. S. H. Miller and Mrs. C. W. Diggs with the birthday cake for the Pioneer African Violet Society of Norfolk, Virginia.

THE UNION COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE AFRICAN SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC., NEW JERSEY, has just ended a very interesting year with a smorgasbord luncheon.

One section of the program this year was devoted to educational subjects: Separating plantlets and crown division, sprays and diseases, and summer vacation care of violets.

A Christmas covered dish luncheon was held at which time gift plants were exchanged. Mr. Maas of Hilton Dahlia Farms presented a violet to each member. "Little Shows" were also held at six of the meetings. Plants brought in were judged by the merit system, and written explanations given of the judging. This helped prepare for the big show.

Officers for the coming year are: president, Mrs. E. L. Klotz; vice-president, Mrs. C. E. Howard; second vice-president, Mrs. A. H. Fuller; secretary, Mrs. H. K. Dunn; treasurer, Mrs. E. H. Allen.

THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB OF DAVENPORT, IOWA, at the May meeting elected the following new officers: president, Mrs. Golda Wolf; vice-president, Mrs. Dovie Utterback; secretary and treasurer, Mrs. Horace Murray.

This is the fourth annual election for this chapter. Their objective is to bring together a local group of congenial persons in an effort to further the growth of the African Violet Society of America, Inc.; to help each other with their problems, and to enjoy the association with others interested in this delightful hobby.

Charitable projects, both public and private, receive contributions from this group from the white elephant sales, plant and leaf sales, raffles, and bake sales. This gives a feeling of worthwhile accomplishment.

THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF SAN PEDRO, CALIFORNIA, celebrated its sixth anniversary on March 26, 1957. A pot luck luncheon was enjoyed by members and twenty guests from Los Angeles and Long Beach. The tables were beautifully decorated. The head table held a lovely cake from which pink ribbons were attached to lighted candles. This was surrounded by exquisite African violets.

Mrs. Clarissa Harris spoke on the Cal-Tech Research Fund for African violets. Mrs. E. O. Sherer spoke on African Violet Fungus and Planting Mix.

THE SUNSHINE CITY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB OF ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA, re-elected the following officers for the coming year: president, Mrs. Maude Bunce; vice-president, Mrs. Janet Carless; secretary, Mrs. Grace Wintersteen; treasurer, Mrs. Cleo Thomson.

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month in the homes of the members and each meeting is opened by a prayer written by the president, Mrs. Bunce.

The club Motto, "Our Kitchen Window," is carried out by the club members as two leaves are given to each member, and a record kept of care, and development. They are grown in the kitchen windows. Later, a discussion is held about each member's progress.

Booklets were made by the members, and prizes given for the most original and prettiest cover. Drawings for small plants donated by the president were also made each month, which helped the members, especially the beginners, to increase their collections.

National colored slides were shown, and color slides were presented by members of the club who had taken trips abroad, which included gardens in England, France, Egypt, Italy and Hawaii.

This club is in its second year and growing rapidly.

Hello from Northern California! May we take this means of introducing ourselves to our sister organizations?

We are the **WILLOWS AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF WILLOWS, GLENN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**. Our meetings are held on the evening of the second Wednesday of the month with the exception of July and August.

The greater part of the preliminary work necessary to forming any organization was performed by our first president, Mrs. Ted Plummer, Mrs. C. J. Whiting and Mr. Virgil Winter, under the sponsorship and guidance of the Chico African Violet Society.

On April 11, 1956, an advertised public meeting for anyone interested in African violets was held at the local Barber Rowland Nursery. This meeting was well attended.

On September 12, 1956, another advertised meeting was held for everyone interested in forming of an African violet society. This meeting was also well attended, and the time consuming, boresome task of choosing a workable constitution was begun.

After several months hesitation we voted to Affiliate with the National Society, a move we are happy about, now that we have begun to enjoy the benefits of such an affiliation.

We have our society pretty well established, and can go ahead and enjoy African violets. We do not yet have any particular goal, as most of us are rank amateurs.

With the love of African violets as our common meeting ground, we have drawn from many walks of life a roster of twenty-eight members. Our youngest is ten years of age, and many of us, quite frankly, are gray haired grandmothers. It has brought to each of us new acquaintances who have not stayed acquaintances long. Now when we meet we greet each other with a smile for we have become friends.

The SUBURBAN SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS held the election of officers at the home of Mrs. W. Weber, Arlington Heights, on April 10, 1957. The following were elected for the coming year: president, Mrs. L. Poduska; vice-president, Mrs. I. Linehan; secretary, Mrs. C. Paeglow; treasurer, Mrs. W. Damm, Jr.

The planning board met on May 9, 1957, at the Arlington House for a luncheon, as guests of the newly elected president, Mrs. L. Poduska. Plans for the coming year were discussed.

The installation of officers was held June 11, 1957, at the home of Mrs. M. Demet, Prospect Heights, and the past president Mrs. E. O. Moss, Arlington Heights, was presented with a gold African violet past president's pin and a resolution, printed on parchment and drawn by Mrs. H. Miller of Palatine, a member of the club, thanking her for past work on behalf of the club.

The WISCONSIN COUNCIL OF AFRICAN VIOLET CLUBS met in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on May 6, 1957. Election of officers was held and the following were elected: president, Mrs. Willard Hadley; vice-president, Mrs. David Buchta; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. J. A. Freudenberg. A state show will be held on September 24, 1957, at the Mitchell Park Boat House in Milwaukee.

The PRINCESS ANNE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, VIRGINIA, held its regular monthly meeting at the home of Mrs. Ketsules.

During the business session it was discussed and voted to give a gold ribbon to the person displaying the most outstanding plant exhibited that month, the ribbon to be awarded after all the violets had been judged. The judges would then go back and pick the most outstanding exhibit for the extra award. It is felt that with this extra ribbon and extra points the members will work much harder than before.

Mrs. C. L. Hershberger, a delegate from the society to the Convention held in Cincinnati, Ohio, gave a most interesting report of the sessions.

The society is now beginning to make plans for a violet show to be held in the fall.

SOME GREENHOUSE TIPS

Reprinted from January-February 1957 Under Glass

Plants have definite preferences as to temperature requirements. The wise approach to greenhouse gardening is to decide what temperature you want to maintain and then select the plants that will thrive in it.

Whenever temperatures are mentioned in cultural advice for greenhouse plants, they indicate night temperatures. Daytime temperatures are about 10° higher, but vary on sunny or cloudy days. A cool greenhouse has a night temperature of about 45°-50°; a moderate house about 55°-60°; and a warm house about 65°-70°. A little experimenting will show that plants tolerate some temperature leeway in either direction, and usually you will find that some parts of your greenhouse are consistently warmer than others

—giving you a wider range of plants to choose from. It is usually warmer against a house wall, for instance, than against the glass, or you may find it warmer near the heater than at the opposite end of the house.

It would be foolish, however, to try to grow high-temperature plants like African violets, gloxinias, or tomatoes in a cool house; or cool-temperature camellias, primulas, and lettuce in a warm house. In THINGS TO DO UNDER GLASS in every issue, you will see that after each plant name we give temperatures at which mature plants do best. Seeds often need higher temperatures for germination and it is a good idea to start them near your greenhouse heater, in a closed case, or on a warm window sill.

HERE IS THE BOOK YOU HAVE BEEN READING ABOUT IN YOUR NEWSPAPERS FROM COAST TO COAST NEWS GARDENING INDOORS UNDER LIGHTS

CORRECT COMBINATION of incandescent and fluorescent lights has revolutionized indoor gardening, say Frederick and Jacqueline Kranz in their recently published book, **Gardening Indoors Under Lights**. It is described by its publishers, The Viking Press, as the first definitive handbook on one of the most fascinating and rapidly growing of contemporary hobbies.

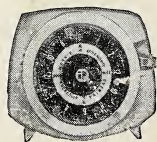
The authors devoted years to carefully controlled and recorded experiments in their

own home in growing flowers, both annual and perennial, starting vegetable seedlings, and rooting shrub and tree cuttings indoors under artificial lighting. The Kranzes' book gives complete directions on providing proper soil, planting, cultivating, fertilizing, watering, and propagation. It tells a beginner how to make his own equipment or where to buy it. The clear illustrations and step-by-step drawings help make this a fascinating book for almost every home.

A must for African Violets. Price \$4.95 Post Paid. Send orders direct to FLORALITE COMPANY.



Floralite Kart. A small attractive indoor Green house. It has four removable 12 x 18 aluminum trays on each tier which can be taken out and put on table or sink so you can work on your plants with ease for spraying, etc. Fluorescent lights can be added at any time. Controlled lighting assured with Timer. The Floralite Kart is the finest and most durable made. Stronger and neater than others. Finished in baked on grey metallic enamel, will not tarnish. Large easy rolling rubber ball bearing casters. 50 in. high, 50 in. long, 18 in. wide. 40 lbs. \$51.50 FOB. Also complete with 3 fixtures, 13 in. reflectors, cord, plug, top bracket, hangers and 6 — 40 watt G. E. Tubes \$92.50 FOB With Dualite fixtures \$98.50 FOB. So. Milwaukee. Weight 100 lbs. With top bracket 70 in. high.



Just set and forget. Your lights will go on and off automatically. No more light worries. \$10.00 Postage Paid.

YOU'LL LIKE OUR Heavy Duty 48" Grey Baked Enamel Fluorescent Light Fixture. Big 13" white baked enameled reflector with cord, plug and two 40 watt cool white G. E. Tubes. \$11.50 plus \$2.50 postage & packing. 2 year guarantee on ballast.



DUALITE FLUORESCENT same as above but with two 25 watt incandescent light sockets. \$13.50 plus \$2.50 postage & packing. 2 year guarantee on ballast.



NEW STARLITE GARDEN LAMP is the most beautiful and useful lamp made. The perforated shade filters the light into your room. Rubber tipped legs will not mar or slip. 33 in. long, 14 in. wide and 18 in. high. Will accommodate 32 or more plants. Black Wrought Iron with white reflector with cord, plug, switch and 2 tubes. \$22.50 Post Paid.

**NEW
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Send for information on our latest
Light Fixture for growing violets

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10551 South Chicago Road, South Milwaukee, Wisconsin

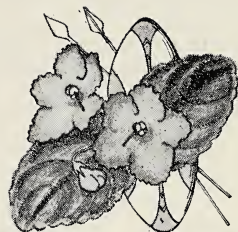
THE FALL'S THE TIME

... FOR BEST VIOLET VALUES

BEST VIOLET SELECTIONS

BEST VIOLET QUALITY ...

save up to 20% --- take advantage of these



Pink Miracle — spectacular
new pink edge Geneva —
only \$2.50 ppd.

FALL SPECIALS

Our "All-Time" Favorites

Pink Miracle — pink edge Geneva
Blue Halo — best blue Geneva
Loveliness — best blue lavender fringe
Multiflora Sky Blue — fine light blue double
The New Alma Wright — best double white
Pink Cloud — best double pink
Edna Fischer — best double Geneva
Ocean Waves — best single blue
Fire Dance — best single "red"
Blue Buttercup — best novelty

all 10 for \$13.00, any 5 for \$6.75, any 3 for \$4.50 (prices ppd.)

Five Fine Doubles

Popcorn — white, girl foliage
Pink Popcorn — shell pink
Creme Puff — tu-tone lavender
Blue Mantle — fine medium blue
Sparkling Burgundy — lavender double
Geneva

all 5 \$6.75, any 3 \$4.25 (ppd.)

Five Fine Singles

Alaska — white
Lavender Halo — lavender Geneva
Corona — frilled lilac Geneva
Blue Duet — fluted blue Geneva
Pink Glacier — pink frilled

all 5 \$7.00, any 3 \$4.50 (ppd.)

Leaf Cuttings

available for fall mailing, write for listing

V-C 13

miracle nemacide — 8 oz. bottle \$2.50 plus
50¢ mailing

Dealers and Clubs

interested in 25 or more
plants, write for special
prices

Beautiful free folder on request

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LINWOOD, NEW JERSEY

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Fall Specials

From

GREENHOUSES

at Popular Prices

1. **TOPS IN NEW DOUBLE PINKS \$1.50 each**
Camellia, Evelyn Johnson, Frilled Rosette, Pink Puff.
2. **FAVORITE FRINGED FLOWER TYPES**
Angel Lace, Spanish Lace — \$1.25 each.
Black Fringe, Clementine, Ruffled Queen, Rosewing, Tinari's June Bride — \$1.00 each.
3. **DOUBLE FLOWERING TYPES FOR CONTINUOUS BLOOM**
Blue Peak, Double Inspiration, Double Wine Velvet Girl, Frivolette, Meg, Pink Cushion, Pink Cloud, White Pride, Holiday, Kings Crown, Sea Sprite — \$1.00 each. Old Rose Bouquet, Ruby Bouquet, White Madonna — 75¢ each.
4. **LARGE EXOTIC FLOWER TYPES \$1.00 each**
America, Christina, Purple Monarch.
5. **PROFUSE BLOOMING BEAUTIES \$1.00 each**
Pink Sparkle, Pink Neptune, Pink Dilly, Purple Knight, Wine Velvet, Ruffled Geneva, Sugar Babe.
Giant Bi-Color, Pansy, Snow Prince, Red King, Painted Girl, Pink Shocking — 75¢ each.
6. **TINARI'S TRAILING TYPES \$1.00 each.**
Sky Trailer, Star Trailer, Snow Trailer, Royal Blue Trailer.
7. **UNUSUAL NOVELTY TYPES \$1.00 each**
Apricot Mist, Santa Maria, Sunburst, Icicle, Double Pink Rock.
8. **ORDER NOW WHILE CHOICE VARIETIES ARE AVAILABLE!**
Clean, fresh stock promptly shipped. Order of \$3.00 and under please add 45¢ postal charges, over add 65¢, west of Miss., 85¢.
9. **FREE COLOR CATALOG!**
Over 100 varieties described, violet accessories and plant stands, plastic pots and violet aids.

TINARI GREENHOUSES

BETHAYRES 3, PA.



58
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African Violet

MAGAZINE

DECEMBER 1957

VOLUME 11 NUMBER 2



SUPPLIES FOR AFRICAN VIOLET GROWING

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Do you have somebody on your Christmas list who is "hard to buy for?" Look this ad over carefully, probably you will find in the out-of-the-ordinary things offered here just exactly what you have been hoping to find. But this isn't just Christmas-time material, everything listed has good solid year-round utility in African Violet growing.

HUMIDIGUIDES

African violets don't like either too high or too low humidity. At too-high humidity they are more subject to fungous diseases (mildew, botrytis, rots) and at too-low humidities buds blast and blossoms fall prematurely. Why not be guided by a Humidiguide so you can avoid the humidity extremes. Humidiguide No. 605 \$6.00, snpg. wt. 2 lbs.

DELUXE SPRAYER

A really deluxe product made of polished copper and nicked brass. Holds one pint of spray solution. Equipped with two nozzles, for coarse or fine spray. Has a pistol-grip type plunger for two-finger operation.

This sprayer is easily manipulated by one hand, leaving the other hand free to lift pots, turn plants, raise leaves, etc. Comes complete with detailed operating instructions and factory guarantee. Deluxe Sprayer \$6.50, shpg. wt. 2 lbs.

PLASTIC POTS

Month in and month out these pots continue in steady demand. And why shouldn't they? They are practically unbreakable, ship well, and don't discolor with algae or fertilizer salts. Yet their cost, delivered to you, is less than any other planter you can buy. Compare prices and be convinced!

Sorry, no choice of color. Color is ordinarily mottled grey with flecks of several other colors, but this cannot be guaranteed and varies from batch to batch. Occasionally color will be solid with no mottling or admixture.

	25		50		100	
	Price	Shpg. Wt.	Price	Shpg. Wt.	Price	Shpg. Wt.
2 1/4 inch pot, regular	\$1.25	2 Lbs.	\$2.00	3 Lbs.	\$3.25	5 Lbs.
3 inch pot, regular	2.00	4 Lbs.	3.00	5 Lbs.	5.25	7 Lbs.
3 1/2 inch pot, squatly	2.35	5 Lbs.	4.12	6 Lbs.	7.07	10 Lbs.
4 inch pot, squatly	2.82	5 Lbs.	5.50	7 Lbs.	9.25	12 Lbs.

PLASTIC SAUCERS

3 3/4 inch	\$1.54	2 Lbs.	\$2.75	3 Lbs.	\$4.84	5 Lbs.
4 1/2 inch	2.31	3 Lbs.	4.13	5 Lbs.	7.27	8 Lbs.

Use the 3 3/4 inch saucer with the 2 1/4 inch and 3 inch pots. Use the 4 1/2 inch saucers with the 3 1/2 inch and 4 inch squatties.

"Pest Control Chart and African Violet Troubles Diagnosis Guide"

28-page booklet, by Neil C. Miller. The result of eight years' experience in handling insecticides for African Violets and answering thousands of letters seeking help or information on African Violet problems.

This booklet follows the middle ground in discussing pests and pest control. It stays away from the Pollyanna approach which is so common (and so vexing) in much material that has been printed. Likewise, it doesn't picture pests or pest problems as the dread-uglies of the insecticide ads and scare writings. Rather, it treats insect infestation as just one of the questions that must be handled properly in order to derive the greatest satisfaction or profit from your African Violet growing.

Contents are: 1. A 6-page Pest Control Chart containing description of all the major pests of African Violets and the damage they do. 2. A 4-page section of notes on pest control on African Violets. 3. A 12-page African Violet Troubles Diagnosis Guide, 4. Instructions on how to make simple tests to determine whether any of the major pests (mites, symphidids, nematodes) are present. 5. A discussion of "Where Do the pests come from," 6. A section on "Pitfalls in Treating African Violet Troubles."

It thus gives information on avoiding pest troubles and recognizing them if they do appear, and instructions on what to do if pests do attack. While it was originally written from the "what to do" angle many readers are finding that the information on avoiding pest troubles and recognizing them is of greater interest and value than the remedial portions.

Single Copies One Dollar, 2-10 copies 90¢ apiece, 10-25 copies 80¢ apiece, Over 25 copies 60¢ apiece.

GREENPLAST LABELS

Miller's plastic labels were the first plastic labels available for African Violet use. They have been on the market for eight years, and are so durable that many of the 1949 labels are still in use. Many other plastic labels have copied one or more of the Miller label features but none have been able to offer all the advantages of the Miller Greenplast labels. These labels are rot and stain proof. They can be written on with any ordinary lead pencil and the writing is permanent throughout the life of the plant but it can be erased and the label used over again. They "give" as leaves grow so do not distort growing leaves. They don't stick up so sleeves and elbows catch them and knock plants over. And they are low in price! Where else can you buy plastic labels at less than one cent a piece?

100 Greenplast labels \$1.00, postpaid 500 Greenplast labels \$3.60, postpaid

SODIUM SELENATE

The only sure way to eliminate mites is to treat every plant with Sodium Selenate. And plants that have been treated with Sodium Selenate can not become infested with mites, or other foliage-feeding insects, for several months.

It costs less to treat 100 plants with Sodium Selenate than to replace one plant that has to be discarded because of insect attack. Sodium Selenate is thus the cheapest insurance the African Violet grower can buy. Why not start treating your plants now and enjoy the satisfaction of knowing that your plants can not become mite infested no matter how many mite-y plants might be placed among them?

Poisonous, it must be used with care. But it gives off no fumes so it can be used with complete safety if certain minimum handling precautions are taken.

12 capsules enough for 200 or more plants, \$1.50 postpaid. 100 capsules \$9.00, postpaid.

Be sure to send enough to cover postage on shipping weights as indicated. Any excess will be refunded.

Also carry Hybrotite Potash Rock, Ruhm Phosphate Rock, Greensand, Cow Manure, Peat Moss, Ground Limestone, Bone Meal, Charcoal, and Activo, for Organic Growing.

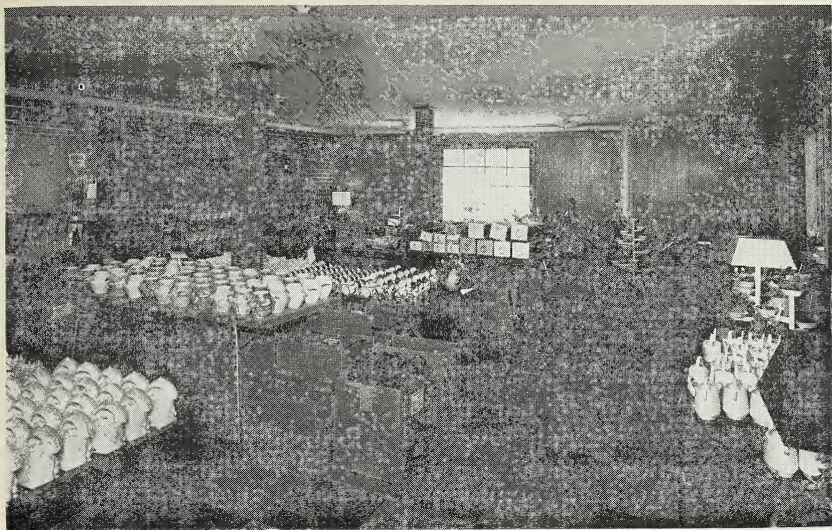
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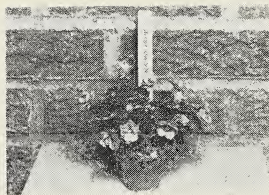


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African Violet Magazine



A Quarterly Publication

C O N T E N T S

Vol. 11

December 1957

No. 2

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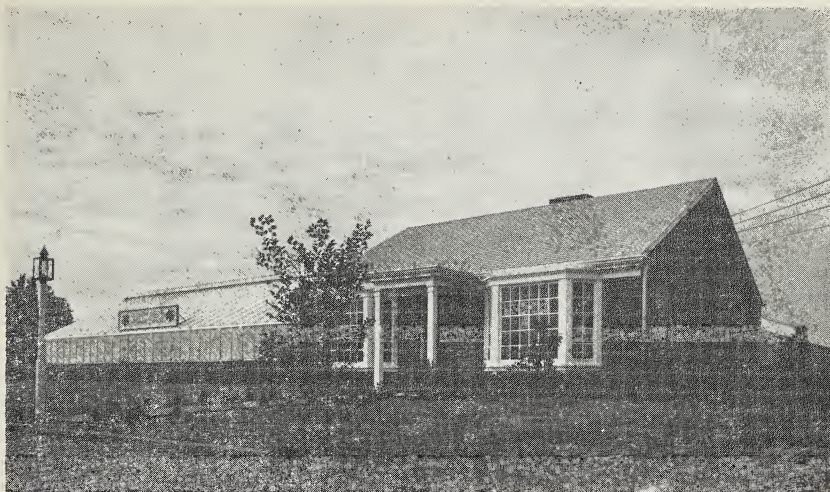
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PLANTING BY THE MOON

Ada Muir, W. Summerland, B. C., Canada

I have received a number of very interesting letters from subscribers and these give ideas as to what to stress as being the most useful information. One member writes that she always plants by the Full Moon, choosing the month when the Sun is in a fruitful sign.

During the year 1958 the best Full Moon dates will be:

January 5, 8:10 p.m. Greenwich Mean Time
 March 5, 6:33 p.m. Greenwich Mean Time
 May 3, Eclipse 11:51 a.m. Greenwich Mean Time
 July 1, 6:08 a.m. Greenwich Mean Time
 August 29, 6:21 a.m. Greenwich Mean Time
 October 28, 3:40 p.m. Greenwich Mean Time
 December 26, 3:57 a.m. Greenwich Mean Time

In the intervening months Sun and Moon were in non-fruitful signs. We must remember that after the Full Moon a two week period com-

mences when we should avoid planting anything which produces its crop above the ground, so if you are using Full Moon dates try to have your planting, seed sowing, etc., finished at the exact time of the Full Moon in your district.

NEW MOON DATES ALL TIMES GIVEN BEING GREENWICH MEAN TIME

January 20, 10:04 p.m.; February 18, 3:58 p.m.; March 20, 10:22 a.m.; April 19, 3:41 a.m. Eclipse; May 18, 6:44 p.m.; June 17, 7:35 a.m.; July 16, 6:44 p.m.; August 29, 6:21 a.m.; September 13, 0:39 p.m.; October 12, 9:17 p.m. Eclipse; November 11, 6:46 a.m.; December 10, 5:24 p.m.

It is not considered advisable to use the exact time of the New Moon for planting or sowing purposes but choose the days within two weeks when the Moon is in a Fruitful sign. These dates are as follows: January 4, 22, 27; February 1, 19, 24, 28; March 23, 28; April 24, 28; May 21, 26, 30; June 22, 26, 30; July 19, 23, 28; August 20, 24, 29; September 16, 20, 25, 30; October 13, 17, 22, 27; November 14, 18, 23, 28; December 11, 16, 21, 26, 30.

NOW-A New Aluminum

FloraCart

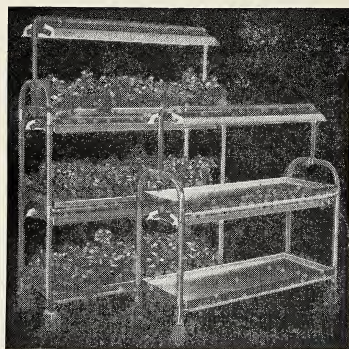
For perfect, practical, and easy indoor gardening. Now the popular TUBE CRAFT FLORA CART is available in tubular aluminum construction, and at no additional cost. Made of a special heat-treated aluminum alloy, it is light weight, corrosion resisting, and sturdy. The large heavy duty 4" diameter rubber-tired ball bearing swivel casters make it easily moved even over heavy carpeting.

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NOTE — The manufacturers of the popular FloraCart are happy to again present a FloraCart (Model CA2 complete unit) as an award at the National Convention to be held in Rochester, New York — April 24, 25, 26, 1958.

CLASS — Three specimen plants (1 true purple, 1 pink, and 1 white, any variety) scoring the highest points. Each plant must score at least 85 points. These plants are to be entered in the regular classes for true purples, pinks, and whites.

PREVIOUS WINNERS —

- 1953 — Mrs. Ronald B. Reaume, Detroit, Michigan.
- 1954 — Mrs. E. L. Perdue, Donaldson, Tennessee.
- 1955 — Rev. Harold L. Thompson, Birmingham, Michigan.
- 1956 — Mrs. L. A. Beck, St. Joseph, Missouri.
- 1957 — Mrs. J. R. Bush, Muncie, Kansas.

SUBIRRIGATED SEED FLATS

For Ease in Growing
African Violet Seedlings

Miriam Lightbourn, Bernardsville, New Jersey

Seedlings are such fun to grow, despite the fact that one seed pod may produce hundreds of tiny plants and you wonder where you will ever find space to put them. One of the main difficulties in raising them is caused by top watering which may cause rotted or damped-off seed. This can be eliminated by using flats constructed for subirrigation, and these are very easily assembled.

One needs a wooden flat; either waterproof paper, oilcloth, or heavy aluminum foil to line it; a small quantity of gravel, crushed brick or pebbles; a three inch clay pot; and vermiculite.

First you line the flat with the waterproof material you have decided to use, then spread an inch of pebbles over the bottom of the flat, place the clay pot in the center of the flat, and put vermiculite around it to within an inch of the top of the flat. After the vermiculite and pot are well soaked, you are ready to plant your seeds on the surface of the vermiculite.

Using a piece of clear glass or some Saran Wrap over the top of the flat, raising it slightly to allow for ventilation, will prevent the vermiculite from drying out too rapidly. Later when the surface looks dry, pour water into the clay pot and it will be distributed through the gravel, to be soaked up by the vermiculite at the seedlings' roots.

Inasmuch as there is no food value in vermiculite, after the seedlings have produced their second leaves, they may be fed with a liquid fertilizer every ten days until they are set out in individual pots.

One word of caution — be certain that the flat you use is sterilized. A friend of mine had sterilized her flat and placed it in the sun to dry. Someone else came along and placed some potted plants in the flat for a few minutes, but these were taken out and the flat used for seeds. In this short time, a snail had laid eggs. The tiny snails kept hatching and the tiny seedlings kept appearing and disappearing as the snails were eating them all. By the time the last snail had been exterminated there were about six seedlings left.

THE END

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year
from
OUR SMALL ONES

JUNE RIESE

2280 Birch Street

Denver 7, Colorado

HOW THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE HAS BEEN OPERATING FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS

Bess Greeley, Chairman, Chicago, Illinois

When our president, Mr. Carter, appointed me chairman of the nominating committee, I wondered what we should do that had not been done in the past. After much thought I decided on the following plan. Four directors are elected each year except every sixth year when our neighbor to the north has a member on the Board. I got a map and divided the United States into four sections or districts. The first district included the east coast states through Georgia and Florida. The second district took in the states between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi River, with West Virginia. The third district extended from the Mississippi to the Rockies. The fourth district included the west coast and Rocky Mountain states. Next I arranged the states of each district in a column, and checked all past copies of the magazine to see which states have had representation on the Board. It was a surprise to find that the second district had had the most members.

To equalize the representation we went to the New England states last year for a director, and this year we have gone to the middle Atlantic states. In district number two, four states had never been represented on the Board, so West Virginia and Alabama have been chosen, leaving only Mississippi and Wisconsin. After taking into consideration the number of Affiliated Clubs in the third district, and the places for future conventions, we decided on Minneapolis. Missouri was also included. On the west coast although California has many clubs and many members, other states needed to be heard from. The member chosen from the north west was not well enough to serve, so we went to Colorado, then back to California. When we receive a rejection it means another round of letters, as each member of this committee has a vote and a voice in the selection. We cannot know all the members of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., but we tried to be fair, and consider those who attend the conventions and support the organization. The members of the Board of Directors must be able to attend the meetings when they are called by our president.

THE END

OLD DANFORTH
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HIGHLAND CREEK
ONTARIO, CANADA

WM. PALMER & SON
AFRICAN VIOLETS

1st Road Running South on East Side of Highland
Creek Bridge. 400 Yds. South.



Poets Corner

HE SHOWED ME HOW

I did not like the sun, and when its rays
 Upon my brow relentlessly did beat
 Into some neighboring calm, cool shade at last
 I felt my footsteps finding safe retreat.

Nor would I venture forth again until
 The sun was sleeping, and the wind was still.

I did not like the snows, and when they came
 Along with winter's breath, so harsh and cold,
 I sought the fires and my friendly chair,
 And cared not if I sat till I grew old.

Nor did I taste the air again until
 The hungry mouth of winter had its fill.

But I must garden! How my hands reached out
 To work the earth; to watch small plantlets
 grow

Unhindered, sturdy. Oh, to see their bloom
 But with no sun to wilt, no winds to blow.

God showed me how; He let me know the thrill
 Of rows of blooming violets on my sill.

Frances Walker Miller
 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

EMERGENCY LIBRARY NOTICE

If you have made a reservation with the
 librarian for a slide program please contact
 Mrs. Yakie at once.

During a recent tornado in Port Arthur,
 Texas, Jack and Maisie Yakie suffered the
 loss of their home.

All of the Society's slide programs are
 intact but some correspondence relating to
 program reservations may have been destroyed.
 Editor.

WHY

A friend of mine once asked me to explain
 Why I was in the violet game.
 I thought a moment, and then replied
 That I could not be satisfied
 To waste my leisure time, and so
 I spent it making violets grow.
 They calm my nerves and give me pleasure,
 Their worth to me is beyond all measure.
 Alberta Stratford
 Beatrice, Nebraska

A VIOLET SHOW

Reprinted from "Violet-Airs"

A violet show is a wonderful thing;
 Its beauty can't be measured.
 With rows and rows of lovely blooms
 And memories to be treasured.

There is so much more to a violet show
 Than you would e'er surmise.
 From a chosen theme ideas grow
 And a show is born before your eyes.

It takes much work from everyone
 And not by just a few.
 It's team-work gets those large tasks done
 Before opening date is due.

Yes! a violet show is a wonderful thing,
 And really worth the price —
 For after all the work is done,
 It seems no sacrifice.

Marie Wais
 Milwaukee, Wisconsin

VIOLETS EVERYWHERE

Violets, Violets everywhere
 In the kitchen, through the hall
 Blue ones, pink ones, white ones too,
 In clay pots, glazed pots, a fancy one or two.
 In the windows, on the chairs,
 Even on the basement stairs,
 Violets, violets everywhere,
 Why I even have them in my hair.

Martha Haith
 Beatrice, Nebraska

MEN TOO

We went to see some violets
 A thousand miles away,
 It was a man who grew them
 He had a big array.

They are the same as I grow
 Right here at my own house,
 Men, too, can be an A. V. bug
 Was proven to my spouse.

Helen Jeffrey
 Beatrice, Nebraska

WICK POTS

Elinor Rodda, Ossian, Indiana

I don't really remember when or why I started to use wick pots, but it was several years ago. My trouble had been that the clay pots dried out so quickly, and having such a busy life I never quite had time to get around to things at the right time. I like to put the plants into wick pots after they have started blooming in a three inch standard pot; sometimes the plants that grow quite fast are planted into the wick pots from the two and one-half inch clay pots. I use the four inch size of pots and always the same kind, which is a styron pot, durable, attractive and easy to keep clean.

Some people say that they are not successful with this method of growing, usually because they like to water every day. The real secret of success is to not water excepting as the plants get really dry. With weather such as most of the country is experiencing this summer, at least here in the central states, watering has to be done only every eight to ten days. I wait until the wick is entirely dry, even letting the lower leaves get a bit limp will do no harm. After one uses this method for some time, it is easy to know if the plants need water by the weight of the pot on lifting it from the base.

Soil mixtures vary so much that some folks might have to water more often than I do (there is quite a lot of peat in my soil mixture), but common sense is all that is needed to make a success of growing in wick pots.

I have all the plants in my home in these pots and use glass shelves at the windows. The various colored pots make a very pretty picture on these shelves. When the plants are first potted and ready for the house there usually are not too many flowers and the pots make more color than the plants, but as time goes by and the plants get mature the pots do not show much. However, just the touch of color that they do give only makes the picture more complete. If it were possible for me to have every plant in my collection in wick pots I would do so. I keep putting the newer ones into the wick pots so that I can have them in my home to observe and enjoy, and to really know how they will perform at the windows in natural light.

Feeding and turning the plants is followed with these pots the same as with any kind of pot. The attractiveness of a window filled with violets in wick pots, and the ease of their care, is well worth the extra expense of the pots.

THE END

R. G. BAXTER

October — 1957

GARDEN JOY



Does Wonders for

African Violets

Your African violets will grow as never before when you feed them with Garden Joy. This new plant food was originated by a group of chemists with years of experience in working with fertilizers. It is completely odorless and liquid in form so that it can be absorbed immediately by the plant. Contains all the ingredients needed to produce healthy growth and more beautiful blooms.

Clean, economical and easy to apply. For African violets you use one teaspoonful of Garden Joy per quart of water and feed your plants as you water them at intervals of approximately every three weeks. For better results with your African violets, start now to use Garden Joy.

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Add 35¢ West of Denver

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NEWS FROM ENGLAND

G. J. Wicks, Lambley, Notts., England

There is a place in England called Melton Mowbray in typical fox hunting country — Leicestershire, the adjoining county to the southwards of my own county of birth — Nottinghamshire.

Now this township of Melton Mowbray is famous as the home of Pork Pies, a delicacy which is bought by lovers of good food all over this country of mine. This country of green grass, scattered trees (must I say this?) in oft overgrown hedgerows, fields of odd shapes and sizes with contours which nearly all seem "just right" with here a district noted for its cereals, another for its roots and yet another for its quality milk yields. All little communities with their own age old customs and vernacular, and last evening I made a journey thro' a part of the "hunting shires" to visit one of our members — Mr. E. Marriott, Edmondthorpe Road, Wymondham, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, England.

The reason for my visit? Let me unfold my tale. Here is an exact copy of a letter I received from Mr. Marriott on the 6th of February 1957.

"Dear Mr. Wicks:

Thank you for letting me know of Mrs. Mack's broadcast. I should not have known about it otherwise. But I asked a neighbour to let me look in and enjoyed it very much. I take this opportunity of thanking you for bringing to my notice the African Violet Society of America. The magazine is something to look forward to and enjoy reading.

I get a great pleasure and interest from growing the plants as I have a table four feet by three feet in the sitting room with two by two foot tubes across it and a small greenhouse with a propagator that can be maintained at seventy degrees. I have bought some colchicine tablets from Boots and have some experiments in progress.

I am seventy-two, minus one leg, and live alone and as we are seven miles from a town you will not be likely to see me at any meeting. A stamped addressed envelope for a list when published.

Yours truly,
E. Marriott."

Also a small extract from a letter received on April 24th, 1957.

"I read your experiences on your journey through America in the current issue of the African Violet Magazine with great interest. I am sure if more people knew what pleasure can be got from these plants, there would be more going in for them. I return the magazines you kindly lent me."

With such a member in your branch, would you not make a small effort to visit? If your reply is "yes" then there is the answer to my question. I had come unknown and unannounced, but when Mr. Marriott opened the door he extended his hand with the words — "It is Mr. Wicks, come in do!" (The photos in the African Violet Magazine must have been fairly true to life.) We soon made friends and were talking violets in no time.

I felt rather proud that my faith in Saint-paulias had been justified in this and many other instances. Proud that I had been able to provide in some small measure the "pure and exquisite pleasure" which is God's gift to man through the medium of plants and flowers.

I found Mr. Marriott happy and cheerful, surrounded by the flowers he loves and tends. I know that some of your readers would, like me, have found joy in meeting him. I promised to visit him again this Autumn when I hope to spend more time with him and show him some of the colour slides I took on my U. S. A. trip. I suggest some of you members write to him. He would be so pleased.

Today I had a visitor from Rhodesia, South Africa — Mr. W. E. Aslin, 17 Livingstone Road, P. O. Box 345, Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia. He brought me his entry form completed to join our First British Branch. He will never attend our branch meetings but he will write to us, send his queries, receive his replies, gain and spread knowledge of the Saintpaulia, and by so doing live up to one of the first objects of the Society.

Each and every week I have letters from overseas, some from members but many seeking knowledge and information as to where they can purchase some of the newer varieties of Saint-paulias, how they can best grow them, and what procedure to adopt to purchase and import. Very rarely do I look for an excuse to lighten my load. All and sundry get what help I can render via the post box! And the circle grows larger and ever larger! !

Our showing schedule is finished for this season. Both yesterday and today the telephone has been busy with congratulations on our Gold Medal Award at Shrewsbury Floral Fete, one of England's premier shows which attracts over one hundred and fifty thousand people in two days. The marquees are filled with exhibits from the finest growers in the country. We staged an exhibit of approximately two hundred square feet, which for the sixth time in six shows this season put us among the Gold Medal winners.

My personal thanks goes out to all my friends in the U. S. A. who have so readily come to my assistance with newer and better violets these past few years. I am deeply grateful. Whatever success has been achieved has been made possible through their cooperation. A great big thank you then from all African violet lovers over here and in many parts of the world. Greetings to you all from the First British Branch.

President's Message



Mr. Carter

Details of the Rochester, New York Convention will be found in this issue. Plans are shaping up well for this big African violet event of the year. Convention Chairman, Mrs. Fred Flory reports to me that plans are progressing very well and assures me that Rochester will put on a Convention that we will be proud of.

Right now I would like to make an important matter clear. Our hiring an Executive Secretary does not in any way mean that we do not need our present volunteer workers! His job, most especially at the beginning will be to find ways and means to reach more people that should be acquainted with our Society and become members. It will be his job to attend to the many routine matters that must be attended to in order to keep the machinery of the Society functioning properly and efficiently.

Alma Wright is continuing as our Editor. The same workers on the magazine are continuing. So are the various committees and their chairman.

The Executive Secretary will through his office, relieve quite a lot of the burden of details that have been left to your officers. He will at all times be subject to direction from your elected officers and Board of Directors.

Many applications for new members are coming into the office daily, many on the pink sheet that was inserted in the magazine. This is proof that you members are on the job securing new members. Keep up the good work!

It is generally agreed that the African violet is America's leading house plant. It bids fair to become a leading house plant all over the world. Just this week I received a letter from far off Southern Rhodesia in response to an article I wrote in *Horticulture* about African violets. He wrote in part as follows: Quote, "Having an absorbing interest in these lovely plants (African violets) I have collected several varieties available in this country, but realize after reading your article and by the illustrations that I have seen nothing approaching the wonderful forms grown in your country.

"Please forgive my presumption but I shall be grateful if you will advise me if it is possible to obtain leaves of the varieties which you recommend.

"I feel that with the stimulation of your varieties that eventually we could form a Society in this Country as many plant lovers here grow a few Saintpaulias." End quote.

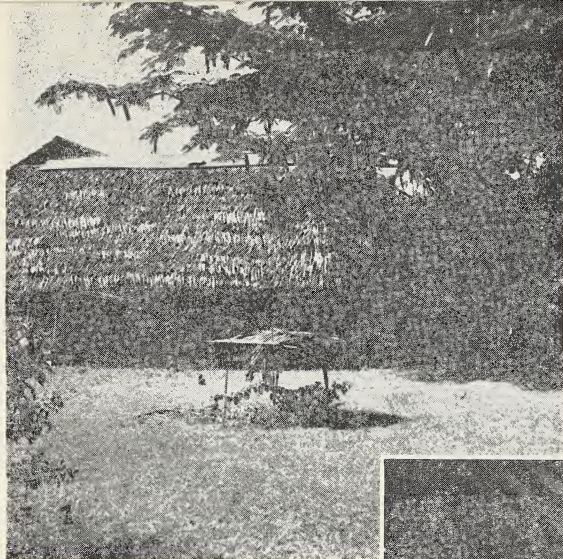
Doesn't this prove beyond question that our African violet has a way to win people everywhere? It is doubly interesting in the fact that here we have a request to send back new varieties to the continent that they originated in.

I shall do my best to send this man leaves of the new varieties. This will have to be done by first class air mail (cost \$8.00 per lb.) as there is no air parcel post to this country.

Be sure and send in your reservations as early as possible for the Convention. By so doing you will make the work of the Convention committee much easier. The important thing is to be there.

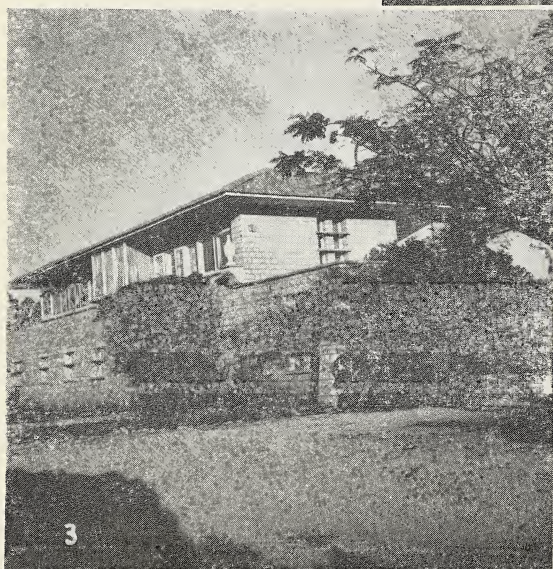
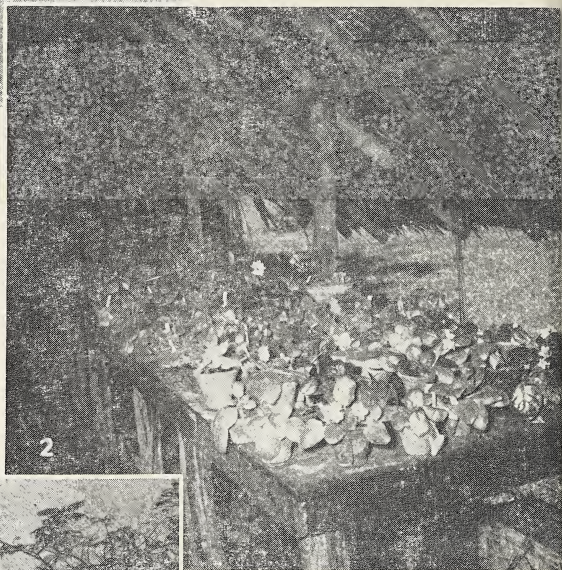
Sincerely,

William B. Carter



Outside of shed with roof made of Makuti.

My African violets growing in a shed in the garden at Tanga — Not a good time of year and few were flowering.



Our house at Tanga. Window jutting out at centre is the conservatory.

Growing African Violets In Tanga

Phyllis D. Barker, Tanganyika, East Africa

Although Tanga Province is the home of African violets I cannot claim to have had any great success with the growing of them. Tanga town, where we live, is a seaport on the East coast of Africa, and, being on the coast, it has a hot and humid climate. The heat, I believe, is too much for Saintpaulias because during the hot season from November to April they wilt and those species from the higher parts of the province, in the Usambara Mountains, always die at this time of year. In this way I have lost all my plants of species such as *S. shumensis*, *S. orbicularis* and the delightful little plant which comes from Balangai which is not yet identified.

Of all the species of African violets only two or three grow at low levels near the coast. These are *S. ionantha*, *S. diplotricha* and one other, and I have had no trouble with these in my conservatory and even grow them successfully in a shed in the garden. (see photo)

Most of the species grow in the Usambara Mountains and are found at altitudes of up to 6,500 feet. A friend who lives in the foothills of these mountains at only 1,000 feet above sea level has had much better results in growing African violets and I believe this is due to the cooler conditions at this level. Here they flower very well. (see photo)

With imported hybrids, however, I have had more success but even they do not flower as prolifically as they should. In this connection I would point out that in their wild state African violets have very few blooms on them at the same time and their flowering season is short. Nairobi, in Kenya, with a moderate climate and an altitude of 6,000 feet, would appear to be ideal for them and I have heard of beautiful plants there.

The flowering season is from May to October or later. This is our cool season. Seeds can be sown all the year round owing to the fact that we have no cold weather, but they do better when sown in June/July as they get a good start before the hot season comes. I always grow my seeds in vermiculite.

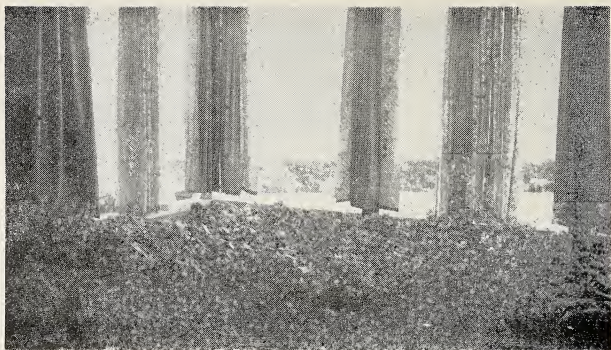
The water may have some effect on the plants. It is very hard and has been proved to be destructive to some plants. Rain water, of course, is best and can be used during the rains in April and May. Owing to the risk of breeding malaria carrying mosquitoes, however, we are not permitted to have rain water tanks or to store water on the premises.

I have found, after trying several types of fertilizer, that one called Maxicrop in liquid form is the most suitable for my African violets.

African violets grown by friends who live in the foothills of the Usambara Mountains, one thousand foot altitude.



My Conservatory from the inside. This is where I first started growing Saintpaulias.



It is made from seaweed and very little mixed with water is given to the plants about once a week or less.

In the house that we rent in Tanga there is a small conservatory in a bay window of the lounge. (see photo) It was because I had to find something to grow in this space that I originally took to growing Saintpaulias. I now have a large collection of both the wild ones and some of the lovely hybrids, many of which came as seeds from the U. S. A. My collection got so large that about eighteen months ago I put up a rough shed in the garden where I moved about a third of my plants. I have also built a frame in the shed where I propagate leaves and the latter has been an undoubted success.

SOILS. At first I grew my violets in crushed up, dried bamboo leaves. This is a satisfactory

medium although it is inclined to dry out too much. However, I could not keep up sufficient supplies of this as my collection grew and I started to make a mixture of soil, sand, vermiculite and crushed bamboo leaves to take the place of compost. It must be remembered that we have no shops in which to buy such amenities as compost or special soil mixtures.

My soil mixture was a failure. I had gone to the trouble of bringing forest soil down from the Usambara Mountains as I felt this was the soil in which the African violets grew in their natural state. In fact it proved to be too rich and when watered it turned black and retained moisture for a long period. In this way I lost a large number of my plants last year. In this connection I would point out that as Saintpaulias grow on the face of the rocks their roots are in very little

African violets growing on the banks of a river about one thousand feet in the Usambara Mountains. It is the first time I have ever seen them growing on banks in such profusion. Usually they grow sparsely on rocks only. This species is a creeper and has not been identified. Hundreds and hundreds of plants are in the picture.



soil and the rock face provides permanent drainage.

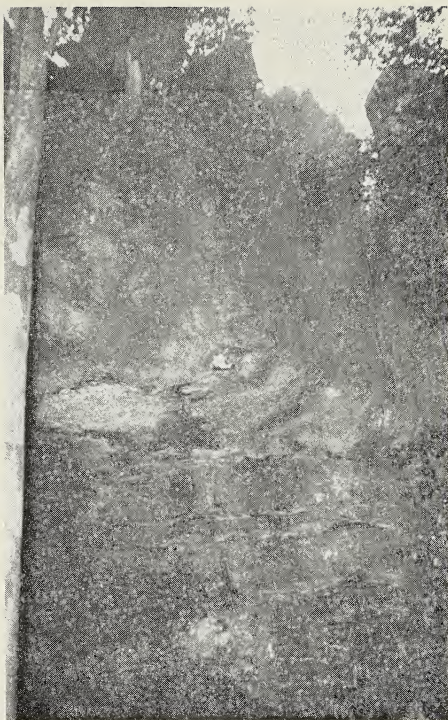
Just before leaving Tanga to come overseas on vacation last May I repotted all my plants in a new medium. We found an old rubbish dump on what had once been a cocoanut plantation. For years the husks of the cocoanuts had been left there to rot and the dump as a result consisted of broken down flesh from these husks after the cocoanut flesh and the coir had been removed. This makes a wonderfully porous medium and being a natural medium we feel it must be full of food and minerals for the plants.

As I have been away during the flowering season (and do not return there until October) I do not know what the result of the new medium is, and will have to write more of this at a later date. With the excellent drainage provided by this medium it is almost impossible to overwater the plants. I am hoping also that better results in flowering will be obtained.

Since writing the above I have returned to Tanga from England, and found my African violets looking quite well. I think they must have had a heavier flowering than usual judging from those that still have a large number of blooms on them. Those outside in the garden shed look much the healthiest, strangely enough. I think those indoors are suffering from too little light

Right

In Kange Gorge where species *S. ionantha* are found. I tried to photograph the curious rock formation but it is a poor photo and a very difficult subject.



Below, A close up view of the plants on the preceeding page. This creeping variety completely covers the ground.



as they are standing up instead of being flat rosettes. The curtains in the conservatory were drawn across the windows ever since I left here four months ago. When I am here I vary the light with the curtains. But all the light comes from the sides whilst in the shed I have a small strip of windowlight along the roof, letting in some overhead light and I am sure this is advantageous.

The Navy Bouquet I grew from a leaf from America is lovely, although I must admit that in spite of the improvement in the flowering I still have not achieved anything like the success with my plants that you have in the U. S. A. judging by the pictures I see in the African Violet Magazine.

Whether the improvement in my plants is due to the new medium in which I planted them just before leaving for England, I do not know. Certainly I seem to have lost many fewer plants than last year, and they have been looked after by my African garden boy all these months. He is a young boy, perhaps about sixteen, and he seems to take a great interest in them and waters them with faithful care.

I have spoken to two African violet friends here since I returned and both report heavier flowering on their plants. Only one of them is using the new potting medium, so it may be that the season has been a better one. We certainly had more rain this year as against last which was terribly dry.

A horticultural friend is using the new potting medium for his episcias and reports that he thinks the new medium is certainly responsible for the improvement in his plants.

THE END

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VARIATIONS IN TEMPERATURE NOT HARMFUL TO MRS. HUTSON'S PLANTS

Joy Hutson, Luton, Beds., England

A lot has been written about the Saintpaulia's dislike of variations in temperatures. During the past nine months my leaves and plants have experienced such variations and have suffered no ill effect whatsoever.

Let me quote from my diary the thermometer readings in the rooms which house the African violets.

During December 1956 the thermometer rose and fell from 45°F to 50°. During this period the plants were kept dust dry.

Part of January brought milder weather, raising the temperature to 53°. From the 16th and onwards the thermometer fell to 48°.

On the 6th February it was a lovely Spring-like day with lots of sunshine to raise the temperature to 60°, but on the 8th February it dropped back to the 47° mark. All through this month the temperature rose and fell.

Practically the whole of March was sunny and warm with the thermometer standing at 60°.

April was fickle with never two days alike. Consequently temperatures rose and fell rapidly.

May brought the African violets into bud and on the 2nd June we experienced the hottest day of the year, the thermometer standing at 85°F.

Practically the whole of June's temperatures stood high and soared to 90° on some days. The plants were now blooming.

The early part of July brought very humid sunless weather and the African violets were stood outside for a brief spell to enjoy a temperature of 75°. After the middle of July there was a drop of 15°.

August gave us some very low readings on the thermometer, the lowest recorded was 50°, but outside there was a slight frost.

As I write this the temperature stands at 75°, and the plants are enjoying the screened sunshine. In no way have my plants suffered from such contrasts in temperatures. All look sturdy and healthy, and one thing is most noticeable, the blooms last quite a considerable time.

THE END

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MY WAY OF GROWING AFRICAN VIOLETS

Lucile Kile, Knoxville, Tennessee

ROOTING LEAVES

I have found that any size leaf with any length stem will root, but I prefer a medium size leaf with about a one and one-half inch stem. A shorter stem will produce plantlets more quickly, but often they are so close to, or even behind, the mother leaf that they do not develop properly. Most of the leaves I use for propagation are the lower leaves from young African violets just coming into bud or bloom. Lower leaves from an old plant would not be as satisfactory.

I root leaves three different ways, in water, vermiculite or soil. Each has to be treated differently but each way is successful. Regardless of how I am going to root a leaf, I break it from the mother plant, being sure not to leave any stub. Then I cut the stem to the desired length with a quick stroke of a very sharp knife. If the stem is already shorter than I like I still cut off about one-fourth inch as I believe the principal reason for a leaf rotting is because the tip of the stem is bruised when it is broken from the plant.

I don't root many leaves in water, but when I do I use small clear glass jars or bottles and put only one leaf and a plastic name label to a jar which I set where it will receive good light but no sun. This method has its disadvantages because for best results the leaf must be potted up at exactly the right time, which is after roots have formed and little bumps, indicating plants are about to form, appear around the tip of the stem. By potting up at this time the little plants will be much stronger than if allowed to develop in water.

When rooting leaves in vermiculite I use clear glass bowls about eight inches in diameter and three inches deep. These hold from eight to twelve leaves depending on their size. I fill the bowls two-thirds full of new dry vermiculite and arrange the leaves around the bowl in such a way that they do not touch each other and are laying at about a forty-five degree angle with the back of the leaves resting on the rim of the bowl and the stems pointing toward the center. With my finger or with the plastic label I scoop out a little vermiculite from under the tips of the stems so they drop down about one-fourth inch below the level of the vermiculite and cover them with the vermiculite I removed. Using lukewarm water I water slowly until I see the vermiculite and leaves begin to rise up and some water is standing on top of the vermiculite. I set the bowls on shelves at a window where they receive good light but no sun. Each day for the first week the vermiculite is firmed gently around the stems as the excess water evaporates. After-

wards the vermiculite is kept slightly damp. Leaves rooted in vermiculite do not have to be potted up at any particular stage. They may be potted up as well rooted leaves in about four weeks, or at the mother and baby stage in seven or eight weeks. If they are not too crowded they may be left in the vermiculite several months until the little plants are large enough to be potted separately. Experience has shown me that the little plants grow faster and stronger in soil under my fluorescent lights so I like to pot them up as soon as time and space permit.

I also root some leaves under fluorescent lights, using my regular potting soil, in Perma-Nest trays. Here too the tip of the stem is only planted about one-fourth inch deep but the leaves are in an upright position and propped with a plastic label. These leaves are very close together and to prevent shading I find it advisable to cut away the mother leaves when the babies are still quite small. With nearly perfect growing conditions (light, temperature and humidity) they don't mind at all.

Of the three methods I use for rooting leaves (water, vermiculite or soil) I prefer the soil method as it gives me nicer plants without the bother of transplanting from another medium to soil.

PREPARATION OF POTS, SOIL, ETC.

I dip the rims of all my clay pots in one-fourth inch of melted paraffin and let it harden before using. This prevents petiole rot. Used pots should be cleaned and thoroughly dried before paraffining. Soaking dirty pots in hot Clorox water makes them much easier to wash, and probably sterilizes them, but I boil all used pots that have had anything except my own violets in them.

I also boil, for twenty minutes, the gravel and sphagnum moss I use in the bottom of my pots for drainage. I spread the gravel out to dry before using or storing, and squeeze all the water I can out of the sphagnum, then loosen it up again and let it dry some, but store it in plastic bags while it is still damp.

I sift my soil through a one-fourth inch screen into a large roaster which holds about three gallons. The soil is usually slightly damp so I pour only about a quart of water slowly over the top of the soil, put the top on the roaster and bake it two and one-half hours at an oven temperature of two hundred and fifty degrees. I allow the soil to air out at least three days before using or storing. My soil is what is considered good garden soil. I have been mixing some manure with it, but have decided that is neither necessary nor advisable.

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SOIL FORMULA AND POTTING METHOD

My soil formula is very simple. I mix together eight cups of sterilized garden soil, eight cups of dry loose peatmoss and four cups of dry vermiculite, dampen well, and let it stand a few minutes before using. This amount will fill about thirty two-and-one-half inch pots, which is the size I prefer for my plants until after they bloom the first time.

For drainage I put a layer of gravel, then a layer of sphagnum moss in the bottom of each pot. This amount of drainage is for plants that are to be watered from the top. I have found this method of watering to be most satisfactory under my conditions.

My potting up consists of transplanting rooted leaves, leaves with babies, and small plants from vermiculite to soil, also separating and potting up in individual pots the young plants grown from previously transplanted leaves or the leaves rooted in soil. The procedure is the same for all except that I use plastic name labels to support leaves and write the variety name on the pot of the others.

My method of potting up leaves or young plants is this: Fill a pot containing drainage material half full of potting mixture and press down slightly. With a fork lift the leaf or plants from their former growing medium and separate the plants if they are large enough. With the thumb and fore-finger of one hand hold the leaf or plant in the pot so the level of the former growing medium will be even with the top of the pot. With a spoon add more soil until the pot is about two-thirds full, press down slightly with the fingers of the hand not holding the plant, finish filling the pot with soil, and press down again. The finished product will be a pot lacking about one-fourth inch of being full, with the soil firm but definitely not packed as tightly as it could be. After the plants are potted they are set on wire cake racks in a tray, where they are watered slowly until neither the soil nor the pot will absorb more, and the excess water drips from the drainage hole. After this, any plants which seem to be top heavy are propped up with plastic toothpicks.

Most of my African violets are sold as baby plants or during their first blooming period so I do very little shifting to larger pots, but when it is necessary I like to have the soil in the pot quite damp, loosen it around the edge with a knife and remove the entire soil ball from the pot, then place it in the next larger size pot, having first put drainage material and enough soil in the bottom to raise the plant to the top of the pot. I fill in around the old soil with new soil, firming it down as I go, then water thoroughly.

GROWING BABIES INTO BLOOMING PLANTS

As soon as my leaves and little plants are potted up they are carried to the basement where

conditions seem to be ideal for growing African violets. The temperature never drops below sixty-five in the winter (I have a small electric heater), or goes above eighty on the hottest summer day. Humidity stays at sixty percent or more and I have fifteen fluorescent light fixtures, each containing two forty watt daylight tubes which are hung so the tubes are about ten inches above the foliage and are left on fourteen hours a day.

The biggest job in caring for my violets is watering. I never use water which feels cold to my hand. I water each plant from the top of the soil until water runs out of the drainage hole. No saucers are used under them so this water drips on the dirt floor and provides the necessary humidity. Plants require watering every four or five days so by the time I get them all watered I have to start over. I used rain water entirely for several years then used tap water for about a year, and have now switched back to rain water. I found that heavy feeding was necessary with tap water to produce the same quality plants that could be grown with rain water and no feeding.

I keep the suckers removed from my African violets and allow them room to spread out and make nice flat plants. I am constantly moving plants around trying to keep the ones near blooming size where they will get the brightest light.

That is all the attention my violets seem to need but I spend a lot of time experimenting with new methods and products. I tried Gibberellic acid on about twenty plants. They grew very long stemmed and unsightly so I don't want any more of that. Also tried foliar feeding several times. It did no harm but the results did not seem worth the effort. From what I have read, sodium selenate must be a wonderful product but the recommended strength does not agree with my plants and I have not been able

to determine what strength would be effective yet not harmful. I have sprayed with several different insecticides and while they did not harm the plants I don't know if they would kill mites because I didn't have any. VC-13 did not hurt the plants I experimented with and I intend to use it on all my African violets as a precautionary measure as soon as I have time. I went through a siege of nematodes years ago and I know how heartbreaking it is, so I am very glad this product is on the market now. Mildew can be controlled by spraying once a week with one-fourth teaspoon of wettable dusting sulphur in a quart of water. This is not sprayed directly on the plants but in the air above them and allowed to settle on the plants. Any spray solution should be slightly warmer than the temperature of the room. At various times I have used Clorox, Black Leaf 40, Chlordane and Millelind for spring-tails, and while they all give temporary relief the trouble always recurs. I've been fighting the battle of the springtails ever since I've been growing African violets, but as long as I don't have anything more serious I guess I am lucky.

I have not tried growing plants from seed. I am sure I could not produce varieties as lovely as the ones already available so I don't want to take up my space with unnamed seedlings.

I think this covers the Do's and Don'ts of my way of growing African violets. I hope you will have found something of interest or benefit in reading about my experiences.

THE END

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Gesneriads-Companion Plants for African Violets

Paul Arnold, Binghamton, New York

RECHSTEINERIA MACROPODA

(right)

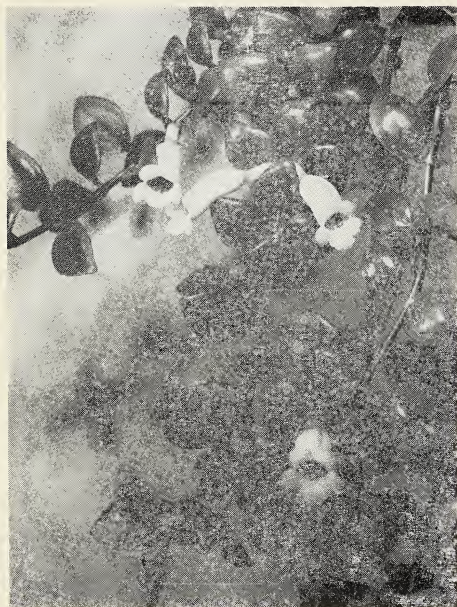
RECHSTEINERIA MACROPODA is the name under which this plant has been sent into the United States recently from Holland, but its correct name probably is *Rechsteineria cyclophylla*. Practically all dealers and most growers know it as *macro-poda* and it is becoming very popular because it is easy to grow from seed, the tubers last for years (growing constantly larger and better) and it has the fortunate habit of flowering when very small, putting out bloom buds even before the leaves have unfurled. The long tubular flowers are a glowing orange red color, borne in clusters on long stems. If the old stalks are cut back, the plant will bloom repeatedly from early spring until late summer. The rather formidable name for this appealing house plant becomes more familiar if we realize that it was named to honor a man named Rechstein, and it replaced three other names: *Gesneria*, *Dircaea*, and *Corytholoma*.

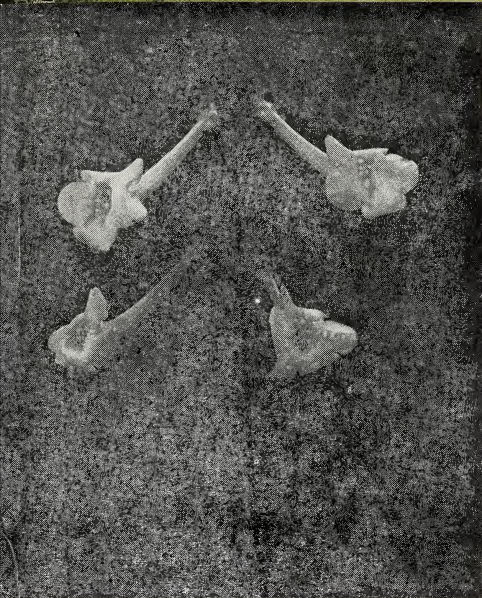


CODONANTHE CRASSIFOLIA

(left)

CODONANTHE CRASSIFOLIA, literally, the "Thick Leaved Bell Flowers" is a particularly attractive African violet relative differing from its hairy cousins by having smooth stems and thick, glossy leaves. Long, ivory-white, bell-shaped flowers, having a waxy sheen, decorate the trailing stems. Inside the open throat is a splotch of dark cherry red or maroon color to enliven the flowers. The undersides of the green leaves are sparsely speckled with small, dark red dots or flecks of color. The plant was discovered first in Costa Rica. It was found later growing on trees and rocks from Panama down to northern South America, near the coast where conditions are hot and humid. The thick leaved *Codonanthe* is tolerant of indoor growing conditions and makes an excellent plant for decorative effects in a hanging basket. The flexible stems reach a length of eighteen inches or more and put out roots opposite each leaf near the tips of the stems in their eagerness to grow.





SINNINGIA TUBIFLORA

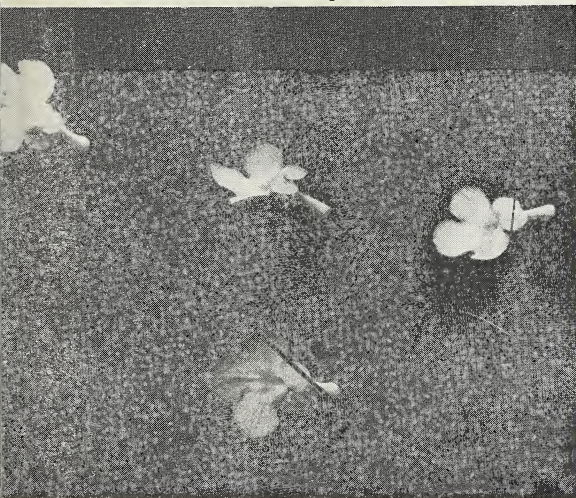
SINNINGIA TUBIFLORA is an outstanding Gesneriad plant because of the wonderful sweet odor of its long, white, tubular flowers. The plant grows from a tuber, looking almost exactly like a small, brown-skinned potato. It makes a tall growth of more than two feet and the flowers come on very long, almost leafless stems which require staking. The habit of growth and the need for full sunlight in order to produce flowers make *Sinningia tubiflora* a rather difficult house plant but quite a number of people have managed to bring it into bloom indoors. The plant hybridizes with other *Sinningias* and bigeneric crosses with *Rechsteineria* have been reported.



COLUMNNEA LEPIDOCAULA

COLUMNNEA LEPIDOCAULA is one of the upright-growing species which makes a fairly erect plant when grown in a four-inch or larger pot, without any artificial support. The name means "scaly stems" and refers to the peeling habit of the white epidermis or skin. *C. lepidocaula* has large, dragons-mouth flowers which are scarlet in color, with a bright yellow throat. The plant, like most *Columnneas*, was found in Costa Rica, growing on trees and rocks in the mountains, an indication of its need for perfect drainage when grown in pots in the home.

STREPTOCARPUS SAXORUM



STREPTOCARPUS SAXORUM is a native of the same East African area where the *Saintpaulia* or "African Violet" originated. The more familiar *Streptocarpus* or "Cape Primrose" species, on the other hand, came from the Cape of Good Hope at the southern tip of Africa. The bright green leaves of *S. saxorum* look thick and succulent but this is deceptive, the result of a turned-over edge on the leaf. The branching stems need support if the plant is grown in a pot and it makes a fine appearance in a hanging basket. The light violet colored flowers occur singly on quite long stems, contrasting with the pure white throat. The plant is floriferous but it seldom sets seed when grown indoors, even when pollinated by hand. The plant, first described in 1884, apparently did not reach the United States until 1950 when seeds arrived from Mr. Leonard J. Brass of the American Museum of Natural History who was collecting plants in Africa for the Museum.

MY BASEMENT GREENHOUSE

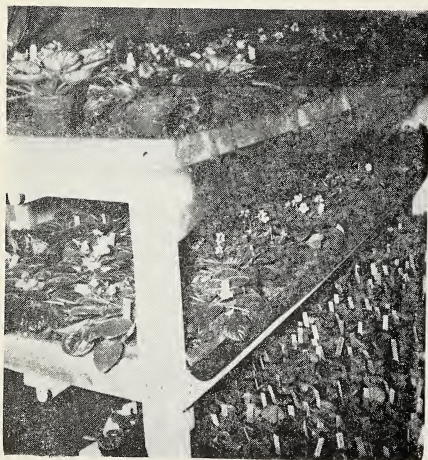
Doris J. Intile, Bloomfield, New Jersey

African violet growing is now my main hobby, and I expect it to continue to be in the future. It seems as if I cannot find enough time to spend with them. I have found that they are not as difficult to grow as some people say. They are life and relaxation, a place to lose one's self and to be at peace with the world. Actually they are a cure-all for many of the present day ills. If more people pursued the cultivation of these interesting little fellows, we would have fewer problems in this world of increasing pressure.

For a hobby that started with one plant given me by a very dear friend, I have migrated from my apartment to the basement of my home in order to have sufficient room. I still do not seem to have the space I need for each variety I see I must have, and it goes on and on. A year ago I had almost two thousand plants so I finally parted with some. I gave them away, but soon strangers came asking to buy plants. A decision was made and I now decided to sell plants, but feel as though I am losing a dear friend each time one goes. I now have utilized all available space in my basement, and will need to start growing them in my apartment again.

I grow all my African violets under fluorescent lights and find it very successful. Under

This very attractive plant stand was built for Mrs. Intile by her husband.



Mrs. Intile is shown with some of her fine plants grown the fluorescent way.

these conditions I never have cloudy dark days to retard the growth, so my violets are seldom at rest. If they are not in full bloom, I can usually look down into the crown and see buds forming. In my opinion fluorescent lighting is the ideal way to grow African violets.

As I said before, I have my setup in the basement and now have approximately four thousand plants in all stages of growth. There are about three hundred and fifty varieties. I have four floral carts that my husband built for me. One covers the width of the basement and consists of four shelves, each with its own lights. I call this my incubator as the temperature in this cart is a little higher than the others. The temperature stays between seventy and eighty degrees and I use this for the very small plants as they seem to like the added warmth. I sometimes have a blooming plant six months after the leaf has been started. From there I transfer the plants to benches similar to hothouse benches, but they consist of three shelves. The lower shelf is very close to the floor and has casters so it can be pulled out easily to water and feed the plants. In this way every available inch of space is utilized. I have four of these benches and like them very much.

I keep the temperature between sixty and seventy degrees and the humidity around sixty percent. I find the plants bloom better in higher humidity. I give them as much air as possible for they do not like stagnant air. Even in the winter I open the windows a little for fresh air, being careful that the plants are not in a draft.

I like to start the leaves in vermiculite in two inch pots. When the plants are about one and

one-half to two inches tall, I separate them and put each plant in a two inch pot of its own, using three-fourths of a pot of sterilized soil-mix and the rest vermiculite. I feel this protects the hair-like roots. When the roots are strong enough they will work their way down into the soil-mix seeking food. The plant remains in the two inch pot until after the first blooming, then it is repotted in a three inch pot, using all soil mix, and then allowed to become potbound. I think a potbound plant produces more and larger blossoms. All suckers are removed, which allows the plant to grow into a rosette or symmetrical plant. It also allows more light down into the crown of the plant, producing almost continuous bloom. If I want more of a particular variety, I root the sucker that I have removed and soon have a blooming plant. The sucker is planted the same way the baby plants are planted, using three-fourths soil and the rest vermiculite.

All the plants and mother leaves are fed twice a month, alternating with Hyponex and Ortho-Gro. I like to water lightly the day before feeding; in this way I can be certain that the roots are moistened and the fertilizer water will not burn them.

My basement greenhouse is kept clean and uncluttered. Cleanliness is very important as a

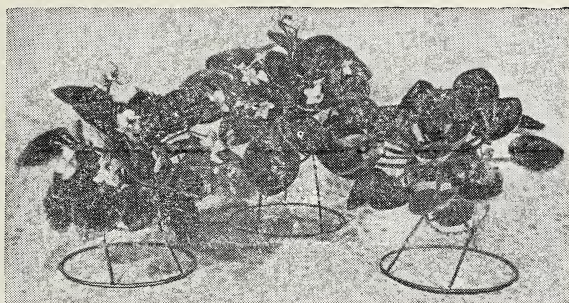
clean plant has more resistance to disease and insects. The plants are sprayed once a week, using Isotox and Optox. VC-13 is used as a drench for precaution against nematodes. Certainly an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. All newly acquired plants are isolated for at least two months, they are sprayed and their soil drenched with VC-13. Always be careful not to handle the plants you have in isolation and then your own plants without thoroughly washing your hands.

In closing, may I say again that feeding is a most important factor in growing strong healthy blooming plants. This reminds me of an old story. A man owned a horse, and he didn't think much of feeding him as he was a little close with a dollar. Each day he cut down a little on the horse's food and everything was going fine. Then just as he got to the point where he didn't have to feed the horse anything at all, the critter up and died.

Feed those plants, spend some time with them, put down some leaves and wait and watch. Get lost with them and you will begin to feel an inner satisfaction that will spread to the outside and reflect a normal, healthy-thinking person. Lots of luck to all of you. God bless you.

THE END

IDEAL PLANT STANDS



Each
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Standard 2½"
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Standard & squatty 4"
2 heights . . . 4" & 6"

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IDEAL FOR COMMERCIAL DISPLAYS

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Also . . . we grow many, many wonderful varieties of African violets . . . always throwing out the "duds". When you are hunting for the new ones, come see us.

We do not ship.

UNUSUAL VALUE IN THIS LIST!

Clumps of plantlets (not just rooted leaves) at 50¢ each with safe arrival guaranteed.

GIVE YOURSELF OR YOUR FRIENDS A LIVING CHRISTMAS PRESENT.

Here is a list of 50 of the top varieties of 1957. If you would like some of these and act promptly before Feb. 15th, we will mail them to you starting March 15th. Each variety will be a clump of plantlets (not just a rooted leaf), which is your bonus for ordering in the winter. You will be delighted at the sturdy clumps of plantlets you'll receive, and you'll be months ahead on your "new varieties" in the spring.

Blue Nocturne	Lorna Doone
Dixie Moonbeam Girl	Pink Caress
Double Fantasy	Pink Miracle
Dbl. Fantasy Ann	Rosalinda
Fringed Snow Prince	Sea Sprite
Holiday Sport	Select Pansy Girl
Longifolia Dbl. Blue	Swank
Long. Dbl. Purple	White Pride Sup.
Longifolia Dbl. Red	White Puff

AFRICA — Fring., single purple, chartreuse edge.

BITTERSWEET — Large fringed cerise single.

CLARISSA HARRIS — Fringed deep pink single.

COTTON TOP — Variegated blue & wh. Geneva.

DRESDEN DREAM — Fringed sing. pink, chart. edge.

GLADNESS — Large dbl. lt. pink, dark fol.

HONEY — Dbl. fringed pink & white.

INVADER — Dbl. ruffled pink, star shaped.

MISS PINK — Dbl. pink & white girl.

MISS RUFFLES — Single fringed blue & wh.

NANCY HANKS — Large single fringed lt. blue.

PINK CELEBRITY — Large deep dbl. pink girl.

PINK CUPID — Heavy blooming dbl. pink girl.

PINK FEATHER — Single, fringed lt. pink girl.

PINK MAGIC — Large cerise single, Neptune fol.

POLYANNA — Large fringed lav. single girl.

PRELUDE — Dbl. var. pink and white, sturdy.

REFLED BI — Lav. & wh. bicolor, large fring. single.

RU'HIE — Dbl. fringed pink, dark foliage.

SEA QUEEN — Single fringed blue, dark girl leaf.

SHOW STAR — Perfect blue star on single pink flower.

SNOW PRINCESS — Lav. bicolor single, albino fol.

SPARKLING WATERS — Variegated purp. on blue sing.

STAR BLUE — Huge star shaped dk. blue single.

STAR PINK — Large star shaped med. pink sing.

STRIKE ME PINK — Deep dbl. pink girl, dark fol.

SUNDAY BEST — Fringed single med. blue, chart. edge.

T V CUT VELVET — Dbl. fringed red, chartreuse edge.

T V ROSE PROM — Single fringed red, chartreuse edge.

TRUDY — Fringed blue & white single.

VALLIN PINK — Fringed single deep pink, chart. edge.

WHITE ORCHID — Large heavily fringed single white.

ANY VARIETY LISTED ABOVE 50¢ EACH

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HENRY TEN HAGEN

DEPT. MA WARSAW, NEW YORK

(Specializing in rooted cuttings by mail.)

Write For Our Current Free Price List Containing
These And Other New Varieties!

A REPORT ON NATURE'S WAY

Mrs. Scott Rader, Knoxville, Illinois

When my friend Myrtle and I read the first two articles by Marie Dannemiller of Barberton, Ohio, on her experiments with Nature's Way, we both agreed, after several discussions, that she really had a good mix. We began to hunt up the materials needed to make it, and believe me that took some doing around this part of the country. There were several trips to Davenport, Iowa, before we could get the Rhum Proosphate. All the dealers around home just looked at us as though we were crazy. They had never heard of it before. Myrtle finally had to go for it one day when I could not go. She ended in helping the man sack it; and she looked like an Indian when they were through for it is a red powdery mineral. When she was hurrying to get home, as it was late, she was given a ticket for speeding. What one will go through for one's African violets!

When there is a lot of experimenting to do, I am not the brave one, so I held back for awhile in using the mix even though I had bought the materials to make it. Myrtle planted one plant in the mix, and another of the same variety in her own mix. She has had beautiful plants with large flowers, using her own mix, but she is always striving for more beauty all the time.

After a month one could see the difference. The plant in Nature's Way had larger stems and leaves and showed more growth. So I was convinced that it really was good. We found out that some plants did not do so well in it as it was too rich. The flowers were not any larger than on plants she had in her own mix. Every visitor had always remarked on the amount and size of the flowers on her plants. After several months in this new Nature's Way mix the leaves and stems of her plants began to turn dark and red. It is very attractive and beautiful.

Knowing the mix was too rich for small plants, we made a mixture of one-half Nature's Way and one-half woods earth. You should see the sturdy little plants it produced, and occasionally one would have a blossom even when so small.

You members who love the dark foliage, please try the Nature's Way mix, I know I am convinced of its worth, and it took my friend Myrtle to teach me.

THE END

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Good Growing with "My Compost"

BESS GREELEY

Chicago, Ill.

Mercer, Wis.

MY INTRODUCTION TO THE AFRICAN VIOLET

Floyd H. Boydston, New Haven, Connecticut

While on vacation in August 1954 I was given six leaves from plants of Storm King and Pink Lady. I was told to put them in vermiculite and keep them watered, which I did. Soon my leaves began to rot and die. Being new to the cultivation of African violets I could not understand what I had done wrong. Like many beginners I had killed them with too much kindness, that is too much water.

As I am a determined fellow and a lover of plants and flowers, I made up my mind to find out what I had done wrong. I went to a book store and asked for a book on how to grow African violets. They recommended two books to me, one by Montague Free and the other by Carolyn K. Rector. After carefully studying both books I bought two plants from a nursery. Both plants had several crowns. I divided them into single crown plants, and in so doing removed a few of the leaves.

For my newly divided plants I made a soil mixture of garden soil, sand, peatmoss, charcoal, dried cow manure, bonemeal and limestone. This soil mixture I sterilized by steaming for one hour at two hundred degrees; then I let it stand for forty-eight hours to be sure the nitrogen content was not too high. The leaves I set out in a sterilized mixture of peatmoss and vermiculite. Soon small plantlets began to appear.

I began visiting other amateur growers and from them I obtained many new varieties until I now have about fifty varieties and fifteen hundred plants. On one of my visits I learned about the African Violet Society of America, Inc., of which I am now a member. I feel I owe much of my success in growing violets to the information published in the magazine.

There was an article in the September 1956 issue by James M. Everett on the control of root knot nematodes. Mr. Everett spoke very highly of a man made humus from a tannery in Elkland, Pennsylvania. This humus is called Elkorganic and is made from the waste products in tanning leather. It is made up of four ingredients called wattle, mangrove, myrbolans and valonia. They come from South America, Africa, India and Asia Minor.

After the tanning is extracted the remaining refuse is then ground in a hammer mill. It is then inoculated with four different types of bacteria and turned twice with a bulldozer. In three weeks it is ready for use with your soil, to cure plants that have been infected with root knot nematodes and to prevent others from getting them.

Following is the Connecticut Agricultural Experimental Station report on the analysis of this by-product called Elkorganic:

Crop to be grown — African violets.

Soil texture — Man made soil, refuse from leather tanning industry.

pH — 6.82 Neutral (7.0 = exact neutrality)

Nitrate nitrogen — Very low. Definitely deficient.

Ammonia nitrogen — Very low.

Phosphorus — Medium high.

Potassium — Very low. Definitely deficient.

Calcium — Very high.

Magnesium — Medium.

Aluminum — Very low.

Manganese — Very low.

I recommend mixing one part Elkorganic to five parts of potting soil for the best results in controlling root knot nematodes.

Anyone interested in obtaining Elkorganic may write to Tyoga Products Company, Division of Elkland Leather Company, Elkland, Pennsylvania.

THE END

MEMBERS' HANDBOOK deadline is March 15, 1958 at which time the files will be closed. Changes of address and corrections must be in before this date. — Editor.

HOLIDAY BOOK BARGAINS

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ARRANGING AFRICAN VIOLETS FOR HOME DECORATION

By Emily Stuebing

The only book published telling how to use your favorite plant in flower arrangements, as corsages, gift packaging, etc. Whether you grow one pot or one hundred, you need this book. 40 handsome photos!

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By William L. Meacham
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The latest book on the subject. Answers all your questions: how to start new plants, where to get new varieties, growing from seed, watering, insect control, greenhouse growing, etc. 4-color plates and drawings.

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A balanced diet for Saint-paulias -- contains 22 natural trace minerals and plant food essentials. ¼ teaspoon ATLAS per quart water for AFRICAN VIOLETS -- feed 10-14 days. At Nurseries & Garden Stores

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from
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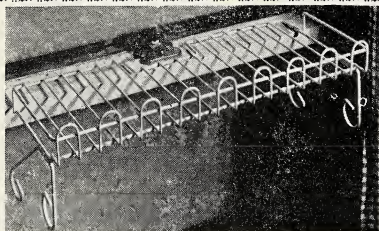
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Choice new varieties. Stamp for list.
I will offer the same special as last year on early
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Sheridan, Wyoming



WIRE WINDOW SHELVES -- Choice of white, black or pink finish. These attach to sill or top of lower sash without screws. 18" size only (ill.) fits over lock. Postpaid prices: 18" x 8½" -- \$2.29 each or two for \$4.25; 24" x 10" -- \$2.49 each or two for \$4.75; 30" x 10" -- \$2.95 each or two for \$5.75.

LIFETIME WHITE PLASTIC MARKERS -- 4½" size, 100 for \$1.25 ppd. Style B, 2" x 5" Tee -- 50 for \$2.00 or 100 for \$2.75. Style B is ideal for labels on plants exhibited in shows or displayed for sale.

GIBBERELLIC ACID -- Offered for the first time -- amazing growth stimulant for African violets in easy-to-use tablet form. Package of 8 tablets only \$1.00. Plastic spray bottle 40¢ postpaid.

We are also headquarters for Dairy Organic Compost and A. V. soil mix, sprays, Protectotape, Identotabs, wire tables, fluorescent lights and other supplies for African violet growers. Free list.

METAL SIGNS THAT SHINE AT NIGHT -- many attractive styles -- Complete sign catalog free. Wall sign "AFRICAN VIOLETS" -- \$1.00 postpaid.

HARVEY J. RIDGE

1126 Arthur St. Dept D7B Wausau, Wis.

ALUMINUM POTS

Bess Greeley, Chicago, Illinois

Recently Mrs. Hameister of KauKauna, Wisconsin, who is in one of my Pigeons, passed on to me an idea which I think many people will be able to use. It is quite simple; your main material is an aluminum pie plate.

The first step is to use long nose pliers and straighten out the edge and flatten the rolled outer edge of the pie plate. Then take a two inch or a two and one-half inch clay pot and mark on the pie plate the size to be turned up, using the top edge of the pot. To make a small size aluminum pot the smaller size pie plate works best.

Next you crimp the top edge, after which you place the top edge of the clay pot on the bottom of the pie plate on the inside. Then place it in the palm of your hand and press firmly to the top edge of the clay pot. This brings up one-half inch of the bottom of the plate for the continued side. Place the formed pot over the hole of the clay pot and with a pencil push out a hole for drainage.

This aluminum pot can also be used as a wick pot by placing the wick in the bottom and setting it over a glass.

I use plastic screen for covering the hole. To do this, cut the screen into small squares. It will help the soil soak up the moisture more quickly than by using bits of cracked clay pots.

The small size aluminum pie plate makes a pot two inches across the bottom, two and one-quarter inches of side and four inches between crimps.

The first one may be difficult to do, but after you get the drift of making them it is very easy. Why don't you try it?

THE END

PLANTS

LEAVES

CHOICE NEW VIOLETS

Chippewa
Ruthie
Princeton
Longfolia Red
Longfolia Double Purple
Blanche
Windor
Mendota
Northern Echo
Blue Classic

Faerie Frills
Northern Sunshine
Pink Caress
Tatonka
Vanity Fair
Kimberly
Cherry Queen
Clarissa Harris
Pink Chiffon
Little Sweetheart

10¢ for List and Coupon
Open by Appointment

QUALITY VIOLET HOUSE

2021 Union S.E., CH 3-6851, Grand Rapids 7, Mich.

TAKE TIME TO SHARE

Mrs. Clark Moore, Sycamore, Ohio

Have you taken time lately to help a shut-in friend with his or her African violets? You may open a whole new world for him by giving a little advice or suggestion. This often is worth more than the plants themselves. Long hours indoors tax the patience of anyone, and we who are shut-ins, or have been, realize it. Encourage a shut-in not to give up! Always be glad to help by phone or by letters.

One of our neighbors is forced to live a more quiet life, but it is possible for us to call on him. During the winter months it was too cold to take a plant, so I took some flowers from some of the plants I had blooming, laid them on a paper doily, sort of making a cone of it. This was very pretty and was greatly appreciated. This gentleman especially wanted a plant of Pink Melior. He felt that was the largest pink he would ever see, and the color suited his tastes perfectly.

I confess I was a little dubious about transplanting this for I wasn't too well acquainted with planters yet and was afraid I had put too many in one. However, I had the plants in nutrient treated pots, Huminals, and it was very easy to put one in a plastic four-inch pot.

About two weeks after I had given him the plant, we again called on him. Not only had the

flowers stayed out well, but another bud was coming and there was no sign of a setback. Best of all, he had removed the flowers that had stopped blooming and had thinned the lower leaves. All of his plants had a neater appearance. It gave me a lift too, knowing that a little advice had gone so far.

This is only one item, for others shared in giving the sick man encouragement. Dr. Reed originated the plant, Helen Montgomery sent me the leaf, and I grew it. It is difficult to estimate the number of things that were done to have the soil, the pot, and then the sunlight.

Last week I took three lovely plants to a crippled lady living in a trailer. She has a nice big window to the north and the flowers sit on a wide ledge. It is so nice and warm in there that I know the violets will do well. She expressed her pleasure in them when she said, "It looks like home with posies."

We should try to help and encourage all those who are so unfortunate as to be ill, for in doing this we shall feel better ourselves.

THE END

THE SEASON'S GREETINGS TO ALL

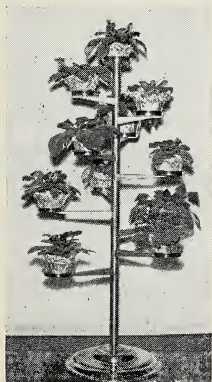
Write for 1958 Spring list.
Fresh cut leaves — Postpaid

Kimberly	Chippewa
Ann Rutledge	Ruthie
Sea Sprite Supreme	Fascination

DORIS AFRICAN VIOLET CORNER

308 Franklin Street Bloomfield, N. J.

SPUNALUM'S NEW "Swing-a-Way" PLANT STAND



For African Violets and other Plants — Arms rotate for sunning and display appearance. **STUNNING!** Holds 11 plants in 5-inch trays — each tray holding pot up to 6-inch standard. 48" High. Distance from floor to bottom arm is 15-inches. Arms can be "swung-away" for best arrangement in appearance or for sunning. Base and arm trays are shining spun aluminum easily kept like new. Stand made entirely of rust-proof aluminum . . . light and easy to handle. So perfectly balanced, it's difficult to tip.

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Box 59-AF

Jackson, Mo.

To All African Violet Admirers: —

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

We are offering a \$25.00 prize for the best Mona Lisa and a \$25.00 prize for the best Pink Chiffon entered in the amateur Division of the National Convention at Rochester, New York in April. These make outstanding plants.

MADISON GARDENS

West Middle Ridge Road Madison, Ohio

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Spring list

February 1958

FERNE FOR AFRICAN VIOLETS

FERNE V. KELLAR

827 N. Main St.

Harrisonburg, Va.

Visitors welcomed North edge of town on
Highway U. S. No. 11.

A SIMPLE, EFFECTIVE, AND ECONOMICAL COLCHICINE TECHNIQUE

Dr. D. C. Nearpass, College Park, Maryland

The Supreme type, or tetraploid, mutations of regular African violet varieties are often striking specimens. If some of the faults of the duPonts and Supremes could be corrected, these somewhat neglected members of our favorite plant family might share more fully in the space now allotted to the regular, thinner leaved or diploid varieties. Here and there an outstanding Supreme is being propagated and introduced, or is being used in a hybridizing program. The development of Supreme type African violets, though occurring from time to time from natural causes, is a very simple process, requiring only colchicine treatment of calloused leaf cuttings.

The fascination of developing different giant type plants by colchicine treatment led me to purchase, a couple of years ago, a bottle of this interesting chemical. As with most of you readers, African violets are a hobby with me, and the results reported here were obtained with leaf cuttings treated at home, and grown in windows or under lights. My first attempts, in which I followed the directions supplied with the prepared solution, gave some good results. From the first eight leaves treated, only one Supreme resulted, but with the next trials somewhat better results were obtained. Then, after reading such of the published information concerning the use of colchicine on African violets as I was able to find, it occurred to me that certain refinements in technique would give more satisfactory results, and also with a minimum of the prepared solution.

According to theory, it is necessary that the colchicine be active within the cells during only one cycle of cell division. In order to determine the length of time necessary for the operation of that cycle, as evidenced by successful development of Supreme type plants, I treated calloused leaves with colchicine solution for various lengths of time. The leaves had been started in water and were always returned to the water for a few days after treatment. Twenty-four hour exposure was much too long. Some leaves which had formed short roots were treated for periods of fourteen to twenty-four hours with clearly apparent damage to the roots. With shorter lengths of exposure, no results were obtained from two hours, and a few Supremes from three hours. Periods ranging from four to six hours gave by far the best results.

Including all leaves treated according to the manufacturer's directions and those used in the experiments to determine the correct length of time for treatment, from something like three hundred home grown leaves treated, over one hundred Supreme type plants were obtained. Later, in one confirmatory test, thirty selected

leaves from greenhouse grown plants were treated according to the following directions for the four hour period between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., and from these, twenty Supreme type plants were obtained. This result required only thirty drops of colchicine solution or one and one-half drops of solution for each Supreme obtained.

Directions

Select good leaves. Cut petiole to about one and one-half inches in length. Insert in water. Place in good light. When petiole shows enlargement, or callus, at base, remove leaf from water and place petiole end in dry dish. A number of leaves may be arranged in the dish with petiole ends together. Drop one drop of 0.2 or 0.25% colchicine solution onto petiole end, for each leaf to be treated. Observe, and add more solution, if very rapid drying occurs. After four to six hours return to water and keep in good light. In a few days pot or place in sterilized growing medium and keep under best growing conditions. The Supreme type plants may be recognized by their thicker, rounder and generally hairier leaves, and may be removed from the mother leaf when one and one-half or two inches in height or spread.

Discussion

Best leaves for colchicine treatments are those that would give most success in regular propagation, that is, leaves from strong vigorous young plants or leaves closer to center in older plants. Petiole length should be sufficient to reach into water in glass, baby food jar, bottle or other container, but not so short that if water evaporates rapidly, leaf will dry out. Callus development, which will take about ten days or two weeks, is more readily apparent on sharply cut leaves than on those that are just broken to the right length. Some times small roots are seen before enlargement occurs. Leaves should probably be treated at that time. Do not wait until small plants are starting to form. Shorter or longer periods of contact than four to six hours are not as successful. Returning the leaves to water after treatment probably results in diffusion of colchicine out into the water and stops further action. Greenhouse growers and those who have conditions suitable for very rapid growth will probably obtain best results from the shorter time, or four hours, while for house grown plants five or six hours may be more favorable. By treating leaf cuttings of new diploid seedlings by this simple colchicine technique, it should be possible for any grower to introduce the Supreme of any new variety at or about the same time that the regular type is introduced.

Contrary to published reports which stated that a high percentage of leaves treated with colchicine do not live, with this method no greater loss of leaves occurs than with untreated leaves. In some cases where the Supremes had developed, and the faster growing regular little plants were crowding the Supreme, the regulars were removed from the mother leaf and the Supreme and mother leaf returned to the soil in the pot, to grow a while longer together.

The Supreme may be the first, or the last, to come up. In some cases, all the small plants will be Supremes. I have had sometimes, two, three and four Supremes from one leaf. Occasionally a mutant plant will develop which is a chimera, having some Supreme traits, but may not propagate as a Supreme. These are usually thick leaved, but not hairy, being about as glossy as the regular variety. Also sometimes very thick leaved plants develop. These may be the result of a second cycle of chromosome doubling, resulting in octoploid plants. Furthermore, colchicine also has the property of causing mutations, or of rearranging chromosomes, and sports, or new varieties, may be developed by its use in which the chromosomes are not doubled. That is, these plants may be different from the treated variety, but not Supremes. Some of these changes may be to the good, others to the bad, but such changes I have not studied. From my experiments, few plants, other than Supremes, from the treated leaves have been grown to blooming age.

Remember, good leaves, calloused in water, treated with colchicine solution for four to six hours, returned to water for a few days, then provided with best growing conditions will result in sure success.

THE END

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African Violet
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Kills Parasites Quick!

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If not available at your dealer's, send \$1 to "Bug-Z", Boyle-Midway, Inc., 22 E. 40th St., N. Y. 16.

Only **89¢**

Another Garden-Tested **ANTROL** Product

WASHING PLASTIC POTS

Liza T. Damron, St. Petersburg, Florida

When washing pots I always put some insecticide in the water, but today I made a big mistake. I had a huge tub full of pots, mostly plastic, and added too much Pestroy. As there was so much water I didn't think it would damage them, but when I started to scrub I found out differently. All the gloss had been destroyed and the dirt was sticking to the roughened sides. It would not come off; soap pads and brush wouldn't budge it. The clay pots were like new, also the little black Plymouth ones, but the lovely plastics were completely ruined.

I sell plants here and by mail, but certainly will not use those terrible looking pots for customer's plants. I always include a gift plant or two in my mail orders, and the little "Thank You" notes are sweet to receive, especially with the notation that ALL plants were received in perfect condition and were very lovely! Who could ask for more?

My plants are just a hobby, but I have so many nice friends through growing and selling a few African violets here and there that I am doubly paid for having them. Being handicapped with total deafness, which keeps me more or less housebound, my violets are very precious to me. During the day I keep a little note box on the door which says WALK IN, just in case violet friends come and get no response to their knock.

I want to send a special word of thanks to Marie Dannemiller because if she hadn't shared her know-how on Nature's Way with me I would have had to forego the pleasure of growing these lovely violets. I also appreciate all the nice folks who make our magazine so wonderful.

THE END

AFRICAN VIOLET SEED

- Mixture A — more than 50 single flowered varieties — 300 seeds — \$1.00
- Mixture B — from varieties having "girl type" foliage — 150 seeds — \$1.00
- Mixture C — from single flowered varieties crossed with double flowered varieties — 150 seeds — \$2.00
- Mixture D — from pink flowered varieties crossed with other pink or white varieties — 150 seeds — \$2.00
- Mixture FM — Our best mixture, 300 seeds \$3.00 of fine hybrids, mixed colors, fringettes.
Our Own Seed Starting Mixture
1 qt. — \$1.00

FOREST MILL AFRICAN VIOLET SEED

4725 E. 35th St.

Indianapolis, Ind.

OSCAR FINDS VIOLETS CAN BE TROUBLESOME

Conrad J. Stark, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Dear Freunds from da Auffrican Violet Sosiety:

I am riting to you today, to told you about all da trubbles ve iss haffing mitt ourn Auffrican Violets. Ach du lieber! sucha trubbles. Some-time I tink ve should trow all dem violets from da vindow oudt yet.

Seems to me, I can told you better vhat trubbles ve haff, ven I let you readt some letters I have rote. Und some ansers I got back yet.

So here iss first vun vhat I rote.

Milwaukee, Wisconsin
23 from August, 1957

Schultz Greenhouse
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Herr Schultz:

I haff in mine hand your violet catalog. Where it shtates dot you haff got dot Kaiser Vilhelm violet und da brice iss vun tollar. So I am sending you vun tollar und vant dot you shouldt sendt me vun plant from dot Kaiser Vilhelm.

You know something? Iss yet a dirty shame dot I haff to pay to you vun tollar for diss violet. I tell you vhat. Iss living next door by us a widow vooman, Mrs. Kelly. Und sucha stinchy Irishvooman I neffer see pefore. She hass got a crate big pewtiful plant uff diss Kaiser Vilhelm, mitt vunderful hugge blue flowers on yet. She keeps diss plant in da vindow vhat faces ourn house, where ve can all da time see it. So ve like it so much, ve vunt vun also. So mine vife Anna goes ofer und asks, vouldt she giff us a leaf from it off. Obber you know vhat? Dot stinchy ting said no. She say dott iss show plant. Und she can not take eeffen vun leaf from it off — it vouldt be shpoilt. Ach dots crazy! Who vouldt know da diffrence when vun leaf iss off yet.

So sendt me quivck vun Kaiser Vilhelm Und I vill put it in ourn next show und beat dot stinchy Irishvooman.

Very true yours,
Oscar Schlitzbottle

Here iss vhat I get back from dot shtinker Schultz.

Dear Mr. Schlitzbottle:

We have on hand your order for one Emperor Vilhelm violet. Please note that we do not list a Kaiser Vilhelm. We take it that Emperor Vilhelm is what you want, as this has a large blue flower. No doubt your neighbor's plant is an Emperor Vilhelm.

Now, we state in our catalog, that we require a three dollar minimum order. Also, on orders under ten dollars, we require fifty cents additional for postage. However, since you are a new

customer and we want your business, we are sending you the plant postpaid. On future orders please observe the above rules.

Very truly yours,
Schultz Greenhouses
C. W. Schultz, Pres.

Now dot I don't like. So I rite dem like diss.

Dear Schultz Pres.

Vhat's da diffrence, Kaiser odder Emperor? Iss dose all old country shuff anyvase. I am now tcitizen from da United Shtates. Here ve do not have Kaisers odder Emperors. Ve haff inshtead Predsidents. Vun ting seems to me funny. Here effrybody calls da predsident by his first name, like Harry odder Ike. In da old country, ven I vouldt dare to call Kaiser Vilhelm "Villy", he vouldt haff me right away hanged.

Vun more funny ting. Here in da United Shtates ve got yet Democratsy. Obber ve got Republican in da white house und da congress iss full mitt dem allzo. Und in Madison iss almost all Republicans — more dan Democrats. So den, vhy do ve not haff Republicratsy? Seems funny.

Vhat you mean, miniyum order? In your catalog you shtate, Kaiser Vilhelm vun tollar. Und now you vant yet tree tollars, und fifty tcents for postache yet. I vont pay it! Py golly, I tink I sendt to Schultz — goot cherman name — den I vont get cheated. So now you vant to cheat me anyvase. Vas your mudder maybe Irish? I tink maybe Irishman vouldt play sucha dirty trick on me. Obber not goot cherman. So don't exact dot I am gonna sendt you more money.

Not so true no more,
Oscar Schlitzbottle

Vell anyvase, coupla days later, comes da plant by da mailman. Obber tree months later I haff to rite to dot Schultz some more. Like so. Schultz Pres.

I haff to told you, dot plant vhat you sendt me vas no goot — it iss deadt. Vhat you tink happen to it? So I vant back mine money odder anudder plant. Pleace sendt quivck.

Oscar Schlitzbottle

Dear Mr. Schlitzbottle:

Mister — how should I know what happened to your plant? What kind of plant was it? Did you water it?

C. W. Schultz, Pres.

So I haff to rite some more und explain. Bv now I am getting a liddle bit madt. Dunnevetter! sucha bizness.

Herr Schultz Pres.

Sucha foolishness — shure I vater it. Sucha dumkopf I aint yet, dot I vouldt not vater it. Vhat kinda plant vas it? A Auffrican violet it vas, a Kaiser Vilhelm violet. Vun like ourn neybor hass got, und da stinchy old vooman vouldt not giff us eeffen vun leaf from it off. So I hat to go und pay you vun tollar for vun plant. Und vhat haff I got? A deadt violet yet. Dot iss not right, I tink.

So da darn ting diedt und I sendt you a lagidamate complain. I vant mine money back odder anudder plant like diss vooman got. So den you anser me mitt foolish quvestions. Iss no vunder I am getting madt.

I tell you. Dot violet hat bugs yet-green vuns. So mine neybor vooman tolt me I shouldt shpray it mitt Paris Green. Dot iss da neybor on da udder sidte, not da stinchy vun. She don't got no violets, obber she got alvase nice roses in her yardt. She tolt me she alvase shprays dose mitt Paris Green, ven dey got bugs on.

Vell, I didt not haff any Paris Green. Obber I haff some Shervin Villiams Nile Green, vhat I haff left ofer from vhen I painted da kitchen. You shouldt see how nice looks dot kitchen. So I shprayed dot violet mitt dot Nile Green und now da darn ting iss deadt — vas not much goot. Da bugs iss deadt allzo. So I am asking you vunce more, sendt me anudder plant odder mine money back.

Oscar Schlitzbottle

Dear Mr. Schlitzbottle:

Now I've heard everything, I give up. Another Emperor Wilhelm is on the way. But please, I beg you, don't spray it with paint.

C. W. Schultz

Dear Schultz Pres.

Naffer mind sendt me anudder plant. Sendt insthead mine tollar back.

Today, ven I vas in da yardt out, dot widow vooman vas in her yardt allzo. She vas making a new sidevalk mitt shtones yet. She put some shhtones by the vheelbarrow in, und vhen it vas full she couldt not push it, so she ask, vouldt I come ofer and push it for her. Vich I didt. So den she saidt, "Oh Mr. Schlitzbottle! you are sucha shtrong man und so kindt yet". She says she hass got in da house a schmall plant from dot Kaiser Vilhelm violet, und she iss gonna giff it to me. Vich she didt. Vas dot not nice from her? She iss pertty nice vooman anyvase.

So I don't need your plant. Pleace sendt me back mine tollar und I wish you luck.

Yours true again,
Oscar Schlitzbottle

100%



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BLUE WHALE

ORGANIC SOIL BUILDER AND CONDITIONER

Ideal for all phases of Gardening
Especially adapted to Violet growing
Absolutely no chemicals in Blue Whale
10-lb. Bag p.p. any point in U. S. \$3.25

ODORLESS — WILL NOT BURN

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ACME PEAT PRODUCTS LIMITED
789 W. Pender St. Vancouver, B. C., Canada

Mr. Schlitzbottle:

Although we have already sent you another plant; to avoid further conflict, we are also returning your dollar. You may keep the plant with our compliments.

A few more transactions like this, the government will owe us money, come next April 15th.

May I make a suggestion? I understand that Fischer's (Good German name) at Linwood, New Jersey, grow some very fine African violets. I suggest that you send for their catalog. And in the future, if you should be on the market for more violets, send them your order. I am very sure that they will take good care of you.

Yours truly,
C. W. Schultz

So dere you haff all da trubbles ve vas haff-ing. Vas dot not something? I tink I vill sendt by dem Fischers for a catalog. Maybe I buy from dem sometime a violet.

Vell, I haff to shtop now riteing. Da widow vooman next door vants dot I shouldt push da vheelbarrow some more. I vill rite to you some more ven I haff something indresting to told you.

Your goot freund,
Oscar Schlitzbottle

THE END

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Strong and Healthy
Shipped Anywhere Anytime
Send Stamp For List

ALTA GREENHOUSE
TOWNSHEND, VERMONT

AFRICAN VIOLETS

New "Pink Waverly" very dark frilled flower.
Lovely dark foliage. \$1.50.
Free catalog listing hundreds of new and older varieties, also rare bulbs.

CECIL HOUDYSHEL

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PLANTS, LEAVES AND ROOTED LEAVES

Our winter offer:

To root all leaves ordered before January 31st and ship in April and May at the cost of fresh leaves (plus shipping).
Regular o Miniature Crossed Seeds \$1.00 packet. Send for your free list now or order from #10.

CORYELL (GOLDEN) GREENHOUSES

14005 W. 64th

Arvada, Colo.

Buyer's Guide Preferred List

Quixie Nichols, Chairman, 246 Madison Blvd., Madison, Tenn.

BLUE WARRIOR (McFarland) Medium blue blossoms on rather short stems. Dark bronzy, long red backed foliage which grows very symmetrical — which makes this variety a pretty show plant.

BOYCE EDENS (Nichols) Very large red-orchid bicolor, the top petals darker red orchid, lower petals very pale orchid, each petal tipped in red orchid.

FRINGED SNOW PRINCE (Reed) Deep green wavy foliage with nice size fringed white blossoms. Propagates easily. Makes a good show plant.

PURPLE KNIGHT (Ulery) A good grower that propagates easily. Purple Knight makes a very lovely compact plant. It has dark, bronzy green foliage and large dark purple blossoms.

ROSE WING (Granger) DuPont type foliage, with a large heavily fringed blossom overlaid with rose. Not as profuse a bloomer as some but the blossoms are so lovely everyone admires it.

EVELYN JOHNSON (Lyon) Very good open medium green girl foliage. Large clusters of medium pink double flowers. Propagates easily and blooms beautifully.

LOVELINESS (Fischer) Soft blue lavender fringed blossoms held well above the deep green wavy foliage. Propagates easily and is also a good bloomer.

HI-LOA PURPLE (Tonkdale) Dark green wavy foliage. Red purple fringed blossoms of medium size. A profuse bloomer.

DIXIE MOONBEAM (Brown) Medium green plain foliage. Beautiful white blossom overlaid with blue. This flower is truly different.

HOLIDAY (Lyon) Dark green red backed leaves which grow slightly upright. Cerise semi-double blossoms. Makes a symmetrical plant.

LAVENDA (Ulery) Dark olive green red backed foliage which grows most symmetrical and slightly upright, semi-double pink-lavender blossoms in profusion.

RUFFLED QUEEN (Ulery) DuPont foliage of deep green. Very fringed large burgundy blossoms. Not too profuse but makes a lovely symmetrical plant.

WHITE MADONNA (Granger) Deep green girl foliage which grows slightly upright. Double and semi-double white blossoms. The most popular of the white girl doubles.

LACY LAVENDER (Ulery) Small deep green foliage with a slight red shading on reverse side of leaves. Very profuse bloomer having lots of semi-double light violet colored flowers.

FANTASY (Behnke) Deep green foliage, lavender-pink blossom streaked and splotched with a bright blue. Does not always propagate true.

INNOCENCE (Ulery) Possibly the two factors that make this a very popular older variety is its unusual deep green red backed foliage and nice habit of growth. The blossom is white sometimes tinged pink.

PINK TONGWENSIS (Unknown) Very pretty deep green slightly cupped red backed foliage. Large pink blossoms in profusion. Propagates easily and grows rapidly.

PANDORA (Granger) Nice deep green girl foliage. Large light blue blossoms. Does not grow too compactly as do some girl type foliages.

AIR WAVES (Select Violet House) Medium green wavy foliage, very wavy double white blossoms on nice long stems. Sometimes there is a touch of lavender in some blossoms.

OHIO BOUNTIFUL (Select Violet House) Medium green foliage which grows slightly upright. Double pink blossoms in profusion. Propagates very easily.

T.V. SWIRLING PETTICOATS (Vallin) Deep green, almost black, wavy foliage. Purple fringed blossoms. A collector's item.

BLUSHING (Ulery) Deep green foliage. Double white blossom with a faint pink overlay.

PINK WALTZ (Brewer) Very deep green, red backed foliage. Large clusters of very double deep pink blossoms which remind one of a sweetheart rose.

T.V. CUT VELVET (Vallin) Deep green red backed wavy foliage. Semi-double red purple blossoms, each petal edged in chartreuse. A collector's item.

DOUBLE PINK CLOUD (Lyon) Medium green quilted foliage. Nice full double clear pink blooms.

PINK GLACIER (Fischer) Light green wavy foliage. Pink fringed blossom. Free bloomer.

FLORADORA (Behnke) Deep green wavy foliage. Fringed orchid blossoms in profusion. Grows very symmetrically and makes a large plant.

DUPONT LAVENDER PINK (Mrs. W. K. duPont) This is an old one but still very popular because of its large two-toned orchid blossom. One of the better duPont varieties.

#32 (Armacost and Royston) Deep green, glossy, troughed foliage. Large bluish orchid blossom. A different shade bloom. Makes a lovely show plant.

DOUBLE VIOLET (Ulery) Medium green foliage tinged red on the reverse side. Very nice large pale orchid double blossom. Petals tipped deeper orchid.

HOOSIER PINK (Wilson) Dark olive green, redbacked foliage. Semi-double deep pink blooms.

PINK PUFF (Lyon) Medium green foliage. Pink blossom which has a row of large petals around the edge with a nice little puff of small petals in the center.

PINK ARBUTUS (Select Violet House) Deep green girl type foliage which grows slightly upright. Large pink blossoms on long strong stems. A favorite in the pink girl class.

LAVENDER BEAUTY (Ulery) An old favorite which has large pale lavender blooms in profusion. Deep green foliage. This variety grows very symmetrical and should make a lovely show plant.

RHETT BUTLER (Brown) Deeply notched duPont foliage. Large blue black fringed blossom. One of the very darkest blossoms on the market. Sparse bloomer but lovely.

DOUBLE WINE VELVET GIRL (Tinari) Deep green girl foliage with very large red double blossoms in profusion.

BIG MISTER (Select Violet House) Round deep green duPont foliage. Large bright blue blossom with a broad white stripe down the center of each petal. This one will not propagate 100% true but is lovely when true.

DIXIE ORCHID (Brown) Olive green foliage tinged red on the back. Wavy, large medium orchid blossoms in profusion.

RAINBOW KING (Granger) Small red orchid blossom edged with white. Medium green quilted foliage.

BLUE HALO (Fischer) Dark green foliage with a large blue blossom which holds its white edge very nicely.

BRENDA GIRL (Ulery) Deep green girl foliage with a large rosy orchid blossom.

LAVENDER HALO (Fischer) Medium dark green foliage with large orchid blooms which holds its white edge nicely.

RUFFLED BI (Select Violet House) Notched medium green duPont foliage. Fringed blue blossom, top petals heavily overlaid with white.

NAME DUPLICATIONS

BUD'S PINK PETTICOATS (Brewer) Dark green girl foliage with a profusion of deep pink double blossoms.

T.V. PINK PETTICOATS (Vallin) Light green frilled leaf, big round deep pink bloom with heavy fringed lighter edge.

CAMELLIA (Lyon) Double light pink with dark girl foliage.

CAMELLIA (Tonkadale) DuPont foliage, light pink double blooms.

PINK JOY (Ulery) Dark olive green red backed foliage. Large deep pink blossoms.

PINK JOY (Richert) Double pink bloom with girl foliage.

PINK POPCORN (Brewer) Heart shaped foliage deeply notched of medium green. Deep double pink blooms.

PINK POPCORN (Fischer) Deep green leaves with red veination. Delicate double pink blooms in clusters.

PINK POPCORN (Hutchens) Sorry, we do not have a description on this one.

BLACK CHERRY (Lyon) Small deep red flowers with dark spooning foliage.

BLACK CHERRY (Originator unknown) This one comes from the west coast. The double blooms are deep red with nice deep green quilted foliage.

JUNE BRIDE (Tinari) Large glistening snowflake white blossoms, and wavy long tapered, spring-green leaves.

VIOLET'S AFRICAN VIOLET SHOPPE

Specializing in Hybridizing
We now grow and sell only our own originations
A complete new series with Holly foliage
Huge blooms, beautiful foliage, just lovely
Our all new list for '58 now ready
Arabia, Safari, Janell, Rembrant, Spice-N-Ice

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GIBBERELIC ACID

Try this dramatic growth stimulant you have been reading about. Users report amazing rate of growth and number of blooms, as well as elimination of shock in transplanting.

Giberellic acid is now available in easy-to-use tablet form. Dissolve $\frac{1}{2}$ or one tablet in accurately marked plastic squeeze bottle. One tablet will treat many plants. Accurate solution, no waste!

Package of 8 tablets, only \$1.00 postpaid.

Plastic spray bottle for above, only 40¢.

DEALERS: Write for liberal discount.

HARVEY J. RIDGE

1126 Arthur St., Dept. D7C, Wausau, Wis.

JUNE BRIDE (Hammond) Heavy sweet pea type, frosty white flowers held nicely above bright girl foliage.

TINKER BELL (Fischer) Red orchid bloom on miniature girl foliage.

TINKER BELLE (Orchard Nursery) Red-lavender white edged Geneva flower with plain foliage.

PANDORA (Granger) Deep green girl foliage with large light blue blossoms.

PANDORA (Fischer) Medium green foliage with double light blue blooms.

PINK TALLYHO (Lyon) Description not available.

TALLYHOE (Tonkadale) Single pink with girl foliage.

DUPLICATE VARIETIES

(OR VERY SIMILAR)

SHOW DARLING (Ten Hagen) Heavy blooming variety with extremely light blue double flowers and contrasting dark green leaf.

DOUBLE BLUE ICE (Unknown) Identical to Show Darling.

FRINGED SNOW PRINCE (Reed) Dark green wavy foliage. Very fringed medium size blooms in profusion.

WHITE ORCHID (Granger) Medium green wavy foliage, deeply fringed white blossom — very similar to Fringed Snow Prince.

AIR WAVES (Select Violet House) Medium green wavy foliage. Ruffled, fluffy double white blooms.

WHITE PUFF (Granger) Deep green wavy foliage with rippled white blooms similar to Air Waves.

LORNA DOONE (Granger) Deep wine bi-color with full double ruffled blooms and dark wavy foliage.

FRIVOLETTA (Tonkadale) Ruffled semi-double wine blossoms on wavy deep green foliage.

SANTA MARIA (Granger) Olive green, red backed foliage — loads of lovely light blue fringed blossoms.

LIGHT BLUE WAVERLY (Select Violet House) Medium green wavy foliage. Profusion of light blue fringed blossoms.

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This new size container brings you the same balanced 5-8-7 analysis Stim-U-Plant African Violet Food which is used by successful growers nation-wide. A tested formulation of pure ingredients, Stim-U-Plant dissolves completely, leaving no residue.

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36 STARTER PACKETS

With the 5 lb. Grower's Special, you get 36 starter packets of Stim-U-Plant African Violet Food. Give these with your new plants as a special bonus and start new violet hobbyists off on the right foot. Free "Care and Growing" booklets also included. Ask about our free sampling plan for your club meetings, shows and other functions.

Enclose check or money order please.

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AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

ROCHESTER CONVENTION

APRIL 24, 25, 26, 1958

ROCHESTER SHERATON HOTEL

ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

CALL FOR 1958 MEETING

The Annual Business Meeting of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., will be held on Friday, April 25th, 1958, at 10:15 A.M. at the Hotel Sheraton, Rochester, New York, to transact the following business.

- 1 — To hear the report of the Officers, Directors and Committees of the Society.
- 2 — To hold the election of Officers and Directors.
- 3 — To transact any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

Sincerely,

William B. Carter, president

SCHEDULE AND AWARDS FOR COMMERCIAL EXHIBITING

CLASS 1

All exhibits to be judged. Blue first, Red second and White third.

CLASS 2

Best young group of plants either new or old varieties not less than 15 plants.

Blue Rosette first, Red Rosette second, White Rosette third.

CLASS 3

Best staged exhibit.

Blue Rosette first, Red Rosette second, White Rosette third.

CLASS 4

Seedlings actually hybridized by exhibitor or released rights given exhibitor and not previously exhibited or judged. Limit four.

Blue first, Red second and White third.

CLASS 5

Sport or Mutant to have been discovered by exhibitor or persons connected with business. Not previously judged or exhibited.

CLASS 6

Only winners in Class 4 and 5 to participate in Class 6.

Blue Rosette first, Red Rosette second and White Rosette third.

SILVER TROPHY

The Commercial Silver Trophy will be awarded to the best Commercial Exhibit of African violets in the Convention Show.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE COMMERCIAL EXHIBITS CONTACT THE CHAIRMAN:

MRS. JOHN A. LANDAKER
2339 GRIGG AVE.
CINCINNATI 7, OHIO



SHOW SCHEDULE
"FLOWERS IN THE FLOWER CITY"
AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

SHERATON HOTEL — ROCHESTER, NEW YORK — APRIL 24, 25, 1958
AMATEUR DIVISION

SECTION I Specimen plants, single blossoms, (Classes 1 through 20 must be single crown Registered named African violets).

- CLASS 1.** Dark Blues or Purples
2. Medium Blues
3. Light Blues
4. Reds to Violets
5. Lavenders and Orchids
6. Bi-Colors
7. Two-Tones (variegated blossoms)
8. Pinks
9. Whites
10. DuPonts, Amazons, and Supremes

SECTION II Specimen plants, double blossoms.

- CLASS 11.** Purples
12. Blues
13. Reds
14. Pinks
15. Whites
16. Variegateds
17. Lavenders and Orchids
18. Bi-Colors and Two-Tones
19. DuPonts, Amazons and Supremes

SECTION III May be single or double blossoms.

- CLASS 20.** Novelties (albinos, variegated foliage, miniatures, etc.)
21. Specimen plant African violet species (such as *S. grotei*, *S. tongwensis*, etc.)
22. Specimen plant Gesneriaceae Family (achimenes, episcias, gloxinias, etc.)
23. Collection of three registered different named varieties single crown plants. (See rule 12)
24. Specimen seedlings (never exhibited before at a National Convention show)

SECTION IV Arrangements.

- CLASS 25.** African violet plant or plants exhibited in unusual containers (such as driftwood, bubble bowls, antique containers, pottery, etc.) Plants must be planted in containers.
26. "Spring Time" — An arrangement or composition of African violets or a plant to predominate view from one side. Not to exceed 30" height, 18" width.
27. "His Alone" (A) An arrangement of African violet blossoms in a suitable container for a man's desk.
(B) An African violet plant in a suitable container for a man's desk.
28. An arrangement suggesting the theme of the show "Flowers in the Flower City."
29. One or more plants in a terrarium, sniffer or glass container, other plant material permitted, also accessories permitted.
30. "Drifting and Dreaming" — An arrangement or composition with driftwood. African violets must predominate, not to exceed 18" x 18".
31. An arrangement using a cup and saucer, other foliage and flowers permitted. African violet blossoms must predominate.

SECTION V Year Books.

- CLASS 32.** Year Books (See rule 13)

AMATEUR SHOW

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Entries must be made between 1:00 — 5:00 P.M. and 6:00 — 8:00 P.M. Wednesday, April 23, 1958, and Thursday, April 24, 1958, between 10:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M. Judging will be from 4:00 — 6:00 P.M.
2. Plants arriving too late to be entered will be shown for exhibition only.
3. Only healthy clean plants will be accepted, and must have been in the hands of the exhibitors at least three months.
4. An exhibitor can enter only one plant of each variety in the Classes 1 through 20. Five points will be taken off all varieties of violets not registered.
5. Each variety entered must be correctly named or subject to correction by the classification committee.
6. The Society will afford all possible protection to exhibits, but will not be responsible for any loss.
7. All plants entered in Classes 1 through 24, with exception of Classes 21 and 22, must be single crown plants.
8. If an entry is not entered by the owner, the name of such person making the entry must be on the back of the entry tag.
9. For uniformity all pots must be covered with aluminum foil. Exhibitors are to print their names on adhesive tape and attach to bottom of foil covered pot.
10. All entries in both amateur and commercial exhibits may be removed from 11:00 — 12:00 P.M. Friday, April 25th, 1958, and from 9:00 A.M. — 12:00 A.M. Saturday, April 26th, 1958.
11. The show will be judged on the merit basis, and the decision of the judges will be final. Only qualified judges of the Society will be permitted to judge.
12. All amateur members of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., will be permitted to enter in Class 23 to compete for the Society Gold and Purple Awards. Each of these plants will be point scored by the judges, and must score 90 or more points each.
13. All club year books entered in Class 32 must be sent to Mrs. Olin Owen, R.F.D. 2, Livonia, New York, not later than April 20th, 1958. These books must be no larger than 5 x 8 inches, being the same books as all club members receive, and once entered become the property of the Society and will not be returned. It is not compulsory for clubs entering year books to be Affiliated with the National Society.
14. Only blue ribbon winners will be eligible for Society or special awards at National Convention shows.

SOCIETY AWARDS

Mrs. Z. C. Layson, Chairman of Awards Committee, Maysville, Kentucky.

THE SILVER CUP of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., will be awarded to the best registered named variety in specimen classes. Classes 1 through 19 of the amateur division.

AWARD OF MERIT RIBBON will be given to the runner-up or second best registered named variety in the specimen classes. Classes 1 through 19.

HONORABLE MENTION RIBBON will be given to the third best registered named variety in the specimen classes. Classes 1 through 19.

GOLD RIBBON AWARD or first award may be given to the best collection of three registered named varieties of African violets exhibited in the National Convention show. (See rule 12)

PURPLE RIBBON AWARD or second award of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., may be given to the second best collection of three registered named varieties of African violets exhibited in the National Convention show.

COMMERCIAL SILVER CUP to the best commercial exhibit.

SPECIAL AWARDS -- AMATEUR DIVISION

ALMA WRIGHT CASH AWARD of \$25.00 for best specimen of the New Alma Wright African Violet.

BEHNKE NURSERIES AWARD \$50.00 on their introductions: \$25.00 to the person scoring the highest number of blues or firsts, \$15.00 to the second highest, \$10.00 to the third highest, on the following Behnke introductions: Fandango, Sonja, Beltsville Beauty, Sweet Memory, Pink Fantasy, All Aglow, Finlandia, Blue Behnke Boy, Behnke Girl, Cornflower Blue, Calico, Calico Girl, Fantasy Girl.

FLOWER GROWER STERLING SILVER PLATE AWARD FOR AFFILIATED CHAPTER LEADERSHIP.

1. This award to be given to any individual member of an Affiliated Chapter for outstanding leadership in promoting all phases of the Chapter's activities in accordance with the objectives of the African Violet Society of America, Inc.

2. The Affiliated Chapter shall submit to the Chairman of Awards, Mrs. Z. C. Layson, Maysville, Ky., the candidate's name, address and list of accomplishments not later than January 1, 1958.

MADISON GARDEN CASH AWARD \$50.00 on the following: \$25.00 for the best specimen of Mona Lisa, large double bi-color. \$25.00 for the best specimen of Pink Chiffon, ruffled lavender pink.

POPULAR GARDENING MAGAZINE SWEEPSTAKES AWARD for most blue ribbons in Classes 1 through 20. Sterling Silver bowl.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE CROSS HYBRID AWARD sponsored by the Research Committee of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. Members or non-members of the Society will be awarded \$25.00 for the best entry of a plant or plants, resulting from a cross of any genus of the Gesneria family, like achimenes or gloxinias on the genus Saintpaulia (African violet). This exhibit to be judged by the Research Committee and must give visual indication that it is a successful cross genus hybrid showing some characteristics of the other Gesneria hybrid.

ROSE ACRE NURSERIES AWARD of \$50.00 arrangement Class 25 for best entry of African violet plant or plants exhibited in unusual containers (such as driftwood, bubble bowls, etc.) Must be planted in container. \$25.00 for best entry. \$15.00 for second best entry. \$10.00 for third best entry.

SELECT VIOLET HOUSE, MARY MEEDS — \$25.00 Award. \$15.00 for best specimen of African violet, So Sweet. \$10.00 award for second best, So Sweet specimen.

SMITH POTTING SOIL COMPANY AWARD. \$25.00 to most outstanding seedling or mutation never before exhibited in a National Convention show.

STIMUPLANT LABORATORIES PLAQUE AND \$50.00 AWARD for best registered named variety in specimen Classes 1 through 19. Plaque and \$25.00 for best specimen plant in dark blue or purple, Class 1. Plaque and \$25.00 for best specimen plant in reds to violets, Class 4. Plaque and \$25.00 for best specimen plant in white, Class 9.

TINARI GREENHOUSES AWARD of a 21 cup Violetree Stand to person scoring the highest blues or firsts on the following: America, Clementine, Black Fringe, Double Wine Velvet Girl, Double Painted Girl, Navy Bouquet, Pink Neptune, Sky Trailer, Sugar Babe and Wine Velvet.

TAY-BOW AFRICAN VIOLETS \$50.00 on the following: \$25.00 for the best specimen of Bud's Kimberley and \$25.00 for the best specimen of Bud's Pink Valentine.

TUBE CRAFT FLORAL CART AWARD for the three best specimen plants: (1 true purple, 1 pink and 1 white, any variety) scoring the highest points. Each plant must score a blue ribbon. These plants to be entered in the regular classes for specimen plants.

YEAR BOOK AWARDS given by the Society Librarian for the best year books of any violet club. First prize \$5.00, second \$3.00, third \$2.00. (See rule 13.)

**AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.
CONVENTION AND ANNUAL MEETING**

**ROCHESTER SHERATON HOTEL
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK**

APRIL 24, 25, 26, 1958

ADVANCE REGISTRATION BLANK

Name _____

Address _____

Registration for the entire Convention, including the Show, Thursday Dinner Meeting, Friday Luncheon Meeting and Friday Banquet Meeting is \$18.75.

Please send your reservation in before March 25, 1958. If you cannot attend the entire Convention, please check below the meetings you will attend. We MUST know definitely how many to prepare for. One registration admits both husband and wife when either is a member.

Registration fee for the entire Convention	\$5.00
Registration fee for one day only	\$3.00
Registration fee for one single meeting	\$1.50
Thursday Dinner Meeting	\$4.75
Friday Luncheon Meeting	\$3.50
Friday Banquet Meeting	\$5.50

SIGN and send your reservation in not later than March 25, 1958, to the registration chairman:

ALEC J. DENCH, 213 W. FILBERT, EAST ROCHESTER, N. Y.

Reservations will not be honored without remittance. Please assist the committee and simplify registration by sending a check or money order with your reservation. Your tickets, badge, program, etc., will be ready on your arrival. If circumstances make it necessary to change your plans, contact the registration chairman before April 12, 1958, and your money will be refunded.

MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

Detach on Dotted Line

SPECIAL MENU NOTICE

The management of the Sheraton Hotel requests that if fish is desired for Friday meals that you check this notice and mail it to Alec Dench with your reservation.

_____ Fish for Friday Luncheon Meeting and Banquet.
_____ Special Diabetic Menu.

TOUR

Thursday, April 24, 1958

Tour of Rochester, \$150

No reservations will be accepted after March 25, 1958, and reservations may not be cancelled after April 12, 1958.

Remittance must accompany reservation.

Detach on Dotted Line

Detach this proxy and mail to MRS. G. D. WOLF, 323 CLARANNA AVE., DAYTON 9, OHIO.

PROXY

The undersigned, member of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., does hereby constitute and appoint MRS. G. D. WOLF, JOSEPH D. SHULZ, LEWIS COOK, or any one or more of them, the true and lawful substitute, attorney and proxy (with full power of substitution and revocation) of the undersigned, for, and in the name, place and stead of, the undersigned, to vote with all the powers which the undersigned would be entitled to exercise, if personally present at the annual meeting of the members of said corporation to be held on April _____, 1958, or at any adjournment of such meeting, upon any matter coming before such meeting or adjournment, and does hereby revoke all proxies heretofore given by the undersigned as a member of said corporation.

Signed at _____, this _____ day of _____, 19____.

Member _____ Address _____

Witness _____ Address _____

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.
CONVENTION AND ANNUAL MEETING
ROCHESTER SHERATON HOTEL
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK
APRIL 24, 25, 26, 1958

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Requests for hotel accommodations for the Convention should be made to —

THE SHERATON HOTEL

ROCHESTER 14, N. Y.

PLEASE RESERVE—Single_____, Double_____, Twin Bed_____Room

At \$_____ per day, for Arrival_____ time* _____ M.

I will check out _____ time _____ M.

Single Room—\$7.85 to \$11.85

Double Bedroom, for Two—\$10.85 to \$14.35

Twin Bedroom, for Two—\$12.85 to \$15.85

Suites—\$22.50 and up

All outside rooms with tub, shower, TV and radio. Majority Air Conditioned. If a room is not available at rate requested, reservation will be made at the next available rate.

* Rooms will not be held past 6:00 p.m. unless arrival and/or payment is guaranteed.

Name _____
(Please Print)

Address _____

City and State _____

----- Detach on Dotted Line -----

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE ON OFFICERS FOR 1958

President, H. G. Harvey, Georgia

1st Vice President, Mrs. James B. Carey, Tennessee

2nd Vice President, Evan P. Roberts, Michigan

Treasurer, Mrs. Arthur Radtke, Ohio

Recording Secretary, Joseph D. Schulz, Indiana

Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Edward Jones, Texas

Membership Secretary, Mrs. Robert Wright, Tennessee

Board of Directors Mrs. Clarence E. Howard, N. J.

Mrs. Elbert M. Lewis, Ala.

Mrs. Pearl Thomas, Calif.

John T. Buckner, Mo.

Nominating Committee: Mrs. Claude E. Greeley, Chairman, Mrs. Arthur Radtke, Floyd L. Johnson, Mrs. Z. C. Layson, Joseph D. Schulz.

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.
CONVENTION AND ANNUAL MEETING
ROCHESTER SHERATON HOTEL
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

APRIL 24, 25, 26, 1958

ADVANCE REGISTRATION FOR JUDGING SCHOOL

SHERATON HOTEL, ROCHESTER, N. Y., THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 1958. Class will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. with the examination in the afternoon from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Registration fee, \$1.00.

Name _____

Address _____

Sign the above blank and send your registration fee of \$1.00 to Ruth G. Carey, 3900 Garden Drive, Knoxville 18, Tennessee, not later than April 15, 1958, if you wish to attend the school. Make registration fee check payable to African Violet Society of America, Inc. To obtain the most from attending the class please study the Handbook before coming to the class. This is especially important if you plan to take the examination.

Detach on Dotted Line

ATTENTION QUALIFIED JUDGES: All qualified judges who plan to attend the Rochester Convention and desire to judge in the Amateur Show, please fill out the blank and send to Mrs. James B. Carey (RUTH G.) 3900 Garden Drive, Knoxville 18, Tenn., not later than April 1, 1958. Please state if you are an arrangement judge of National Council Flower shows in addition to being a Qualified African Violet Society judge.

Name _____

Address _____

Detach and mail to RUTH G. CAREY, 3900 GARDEN DRIVE, KNOXVILLE 18, TENNESSEE.

Detach on Dotted Line

CORRECTIONS
FOR
LIST OF JUDGES AND TEACHERS

The Following Names Were Omitted From the List of Judges and Teachers in the Members' Handbook. Please detach and paste to your list of Judges and Teachers.

TEACHERS:

Mrs. Edmund O. Sherer, 11983 Darlington Ave., Los Angeles 49, Calif.
Mrs. Ward Swanson, 3211 Sheridan Ave., Des Moines, Iowa
Mrs. R. R. Blackburn, 404 Montlieu Ave., High Point, N. C.

JUDGES:

Mr. J. O. Kirkpatrick, 1401 18th Place S.W., Birmingham, Ala.
Mrs. J. O. Kirkpatrick, 1401 18th Place S.W., Birmingham, Ala.
Mrs. E. M. Lewis, 107 Argyle Circle, Gadsden, Ala.
Mrs. Bernice Mims, 2810 Waters Ave., Alabama City, Ala.
Mrs. Ray Morgan, Sr., 710 Randall St., Gadsden Ala.
Mrs. H. J. Streip, 1612 Main St., Gadsden, Ala.
Mrs. B. R. Winstead, Rainbow Drive, Gadsden, Ala.
Mrs. Z. E. Wright, 1025 Holly St., Gadsden, Ala.
Mrs. Gerald L. Dearing, 8098 Spottswood Ave., Memphis, Tenn.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN
AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

MYRTLE RADTKE, Treasurer
P. O. Box 1826
Knoxville, Tennessee

Date _____

Please enroll me as a member of African Violet Society of America, Inc. My Dues are enclosed.
All Classes of Memberships Are Defined Below.

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| SELECT | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership is only \$4.00. |
| AND | <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Membership is \$13.33. |
| CHECK | <input type="checkbox"/> Research Members pay \$20.00. |
| ONE | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Membership is \$10.00. |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership is available for \$66.66. |

Print Name and Address:

Name _____

Street Address _____

City and State _____

Make Checks Payable to African Violet Society of America, Inc.

DETACH ON DOTTED LINE

GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

A year's membership in the African Violet Society of America, Inc. makes a wonderful gift for every occasion — birthdays, anniversaries, Christmas, holidays, or as an appreciation gift for club speakers.

A gift card (you may enclose your own) will be sent to the recipient of your fine gift.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS . . . Individual members pay \$4.00 per year (a year may be any twelve-month period).

COMMERCIAL MEMBERS . . . All persons or firms who annually sell one thousand or more African violet plants or leaf cuttings of the same; or who manufacture or sell fertilizer, disease and insect-control materials and equipment, tools, or any other merchandise pertaining to or applicable to growing African violets shall be commercial members. They shall pay \$13.33 per year (a year may be any twelve-month period). Of each annual dues so paid, all sums in excess of \$4.00 shall be applied to the Research Fund of the Society.

RESEARCH MEMBERS . . . Research members pay at least \$20.00 for each twelve-month period of membership, and at least 85% of each membership paid shall be applied to the Research Fund of the Society.

SUSTAINING MEMBERS . . . Sustaining members pay at least \$10.00 per year (a year may be any twelve-month period).

LIFE MEMBERS . . . The payment of \$66.66 or more shall entitle any person to life membership, and life members shall be exempt from any further dues.

MEMBERSHIPS OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

The Society is happy to welcome members from all parts of the world. Application for membership should be sent direct to the Treasurer. Remittance for membership dues, by check, draft or postal money order, should be made payable in United States funds.

DETACH ON DOTTED LINE

DOUBLE VIOLET (Ulery) Deep green foliage with a profusion of two-toned Violet Beauty shade double blooms.

DOUBLE VIOLET BEAUTY (Unknown) Same as Double Violet.

HI-LOA COBALT (Tonkadale) Dark green wavy foliage, single fringed deep blue bloom.

FLORENTINE (Tinari) Slightly lighter green, very large, wavy foliage. Large bloom almost same shade of Hi-Loa Cobalt but not as profuse.

DUTCH FRILLS (Unknown) Deep green wavy foliage, smaller bloom, slightly darker in the center than Hi-Loa Cobalt or Florentine.

SEA SPRITE (Granger) Light green wavy foliage with white frilled double blooms edged with orchid. Slightly upright grower.

FRILLY FLUFF (Reed) Quilted green foliage. White frilly blossoms edged orchid in profusion.

WESTFALL WHITE (Westfall) Deep green foliage. Very large white blossoms. Profuse bloomer.

SELECT SNOW PRINCE (Ulery) Foliage not quite as deep green as Westfall White. Blooms slightly smaller.

HOTCHKISS WHITE (Hotchkiss) Light green quilted foliage. Blooms not quite as large as Westfall White which are inclined to drop too early.

SALOME (Brown) Large deep wine fringed blossoms on dark green wavy foliage.

FLORADORA (Behnke) Smaller lighter color blooms than Salome — borne in profusion. Smaller lighter colored foliage.

HILDEGARDE (Granger) Very Similar to Floradora.

PANDORA (Granger) Medium green girl foliage. Large blue lavender blooms.

PERIWINKLE GIRL (Brown) Grows more upright and slightly lighter color bloom than Pandora.

PINK GLACIER (Fischer) Light green wavy foliage with medium pink fringed blooms in profusion.

PINK FRINGETTE (Fischer) Very similar to Pink Glacier but larger growing and not quite as profuse.

PURPLE HI-LOA (Tonkadale) Olive green wavy foliage with purple fringed blooms.

FINLANDIA (Behnke) Dark green wavy foliage with a darker purple, smaller bloom than Hi-Loa Purple.

MENDOTA (Tonkadale) Deep green wavy foliage. Double fringed pale lavender blooms.

MARY THOMPSON (Granger) Medium green slightly wavy foliage. Pale lavender double frilled blooms.

DOUBLE EDITH CAVELLE (Granger) Wavier foliage than Mary Thompson but otherwise very similar.

LAVENDER AIR WAVES (Peterson) Medium green wavy foliage, with a very fluffy pale lavender bloom which sometimes is very large.

LAVENDER WAVERLY (Select Violet House) Same as Lavender Air Waves.

DOUBLE WINE VELVET GIRL (Tinari) Dark green girl foliage. Lovely large two-tone wine double blooms.

FIESTA FLARE (Granger) Deep green girl foliage with brighter red colored blossoms than Wine Velvet Girl. Double of course.

NORTHERN LIGHTS (Reed) Deep green girl foliage. Wine double blooms.

PINK VICTORIA (Ulery) Deep green quilted foliage with very double deep pink blooms.

PINK CUSHION (Ulery) Deep green foliage but the blossoms are not quite as compact as the Pink Victoria blossoms are.

CHERRY PINK (Wilson) Deep green glossy foliage with a very bright double pink blossom.

AFRICAN VIOLETS

Leaves Plants Rooted Cuttings
Many varieties to choose from Old and New
Window grown and Fluorescent lights
Write for list.

MRS. COURT JOHNSTON

Carrollton, Illinois

ANN'S VIOLETS

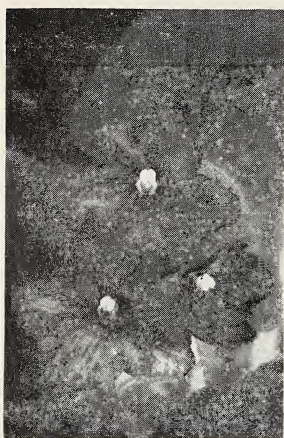
Many varieties, old and new, including T-V'S.
Fresh cut African Violet leaves. Reasonable.
Sterilized A. V. Soil. Sturdy plastic pots.

Write for list.

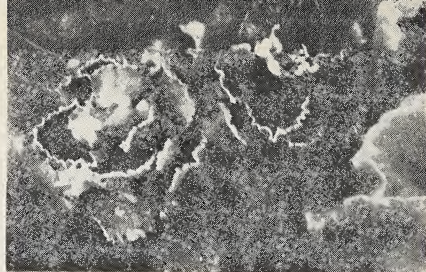
734 E. 8th Street

Tucson, Arizona

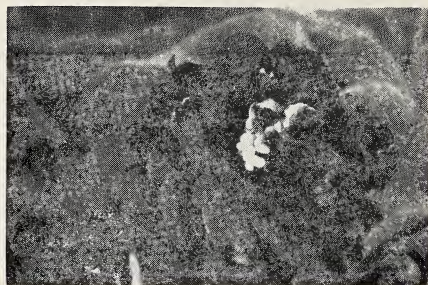
LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE AT FISCHER'S PLANTS



Speckled blue — dark blue striping.



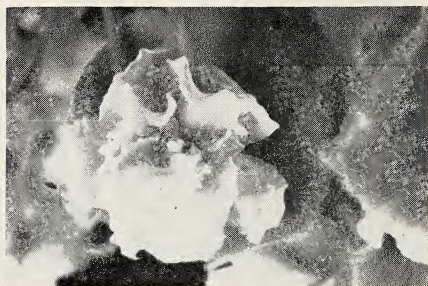
Double purple blossom edged with chartreuse.



Deep blue double blossom with attractive yellow pollen sacs.



Above, Raspberry double.



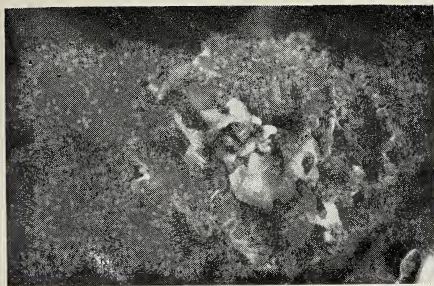
Above, New double pink.

Below, Raspberry single.



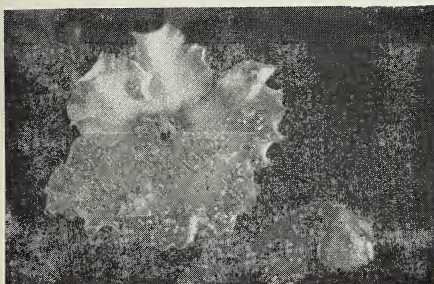
Below, Light pink blossom with a deep pink center.





Above, Carnation frilled double blossom.

Below, Highly fringed white blossom.



Above, Light clear blue blossom with girl foliage.

Below, White double blossom with raspberry flecks.



HOW OHIO GOT ITS "PEAT"

Leroy Tucker, Columbus, Ohio

Reprinted from Ohio News Letter

When the last of the glacial ice invasions from the north decided to go back toward its source in Canada it seemed reluctant to leave Ohio. The glacier would retreat some miles northward, halt awhile, then retreat again. At the edge of the ice moraines were formed, composed of boulders, cobbles, gravel, sand, silt and some clay. Moraines are thus formed. At the edge of the farthest advance are the **TERMINAL MORAINES**: and at each lengthy halt made by the ice in its retreat northward are the **RECESSIONAL MORAINES**. The effect of all this was to create the environment where peat-forming plants would naturally thrive. The vicinity of the recessional moraines were particularly good places for the peat-forming masses to grow.

The environment producing peat seemed to have all these natural features:

1. Lots of water from the nearly melting ice.
2. Poor surface drainage where many stream channels were blocked by morainal debris.
3. Poor vertical drainage due to clay deposits in the bottom of the areas of standing water.
4. The ponds of cool water, either dish shaped or elongate, as along a blockaded channel, soon began to fill in at their margin by a moisture-loving moss which gradually grew out from all shores toward the deeper water at the center. A small amount of sand, silt and clay washed in to help the peat moss fill the bog.

Finally with the ice edge retreating farther and farther away, the whole bog dried up, and then in places was covered with alluvial stream deposits.

Good peat is practically pure organic material from the dead mosses which once thrived in the cool fresh glacial-melt water of the ponds created by the glacier in the neighborhood of the moraines. Ohio has a great deal of peat. It is a blessing to some forms of agriculture, but very unstable support for roadways and bridges.

THE END

NEW AFFILIATED CHAPTERS

Maxine Wangberg, 14½ North Central Avenue, Harlowtown, Montana

WACHUSETT AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, MASSACHUSETTS, Mr. Stanley Kendig, president, Box 3, Westminister, Mass.
TOWN & COUNTRY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, WASHINGTON, Mrs. Olive Brown, president, 814 No. 24th Avenue,
Yakima, Washington.

FIRST AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF INDIANA, PENNSYLVANIA, Mrs. Herbert Gardner, president, 1119 Chestnut
Street, Indiana, Pennsylvania.

THE VI-CLUB OF DETROIT, MICHIGAN, Mrs. Violet Marshall, president, 4911 Larkins, Detroit, Michigan.

URBAN-SUBURBAN AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, ILLINOIS, Mrs. P. J. Steffen, president, 5108 No. Claremont Avenue,
Chicago, Illinois.

FLORADEL AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, FLORIDA, Mrs. Fred Klingelhoffer, president, 1274 No. Seedeve Circle, Clear-
water, Florida.

HI-LOA VIOLET SOCIETY, IDAHO, Mrs. Earl Rogers, president, 516 So. Latah, Boise, Idaho.

CRUSADER AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, PENNSYLVANIA, Mrs. John L. Ricker, president, 300 Sylvan Avenue, Norwood,
Pennsylvania.

TOWN & COUNTRY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, NORTH DAKOTA, Mrs. John Holback, president, Route # 2, Minot,
North Dakota.

AFRICAN VIOLET TWILIGHT GUILD, WASHINGTON, Mr. Nels C. Nelson, president, 1524 Garfield Avenue, Yakima,
Washington.

HAINES CITY AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, FLORIDA, Mrs. Cecil Shroeder, president, 1809 Lake Brown Drive, Haines
City, Florida.

OLD PUEBLO AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, ARIZONA, Mrs. Robert Slemmer, president, 4716 E. Seneca Street, Tucson,
Arizona.

SUNSHINE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, COLORADO, Mrs. Lady Cook, president, 720 Canosa Court, Denver, Colorado.

Dear Affiliated Chapter Members:

As I wrote you, in this column in the June and September issues, we are publishing the names of the clubs whose memberships is 100% National. While I am pleased with the number of club officers who have notified me, I am sure there must be other clubs who have not written me. Will you please do so before March 1, 1958, for publication in the June issue of the Magazine? Here are the club names:

LONG ISLAND AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, NEW YORK, Mrs. Alexander Colyer, president, 466 No. Windsor Ave., Brightwaters, Long Island, N. Y.

HOUSTON SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY, TEXAS, Mrs. Clara Cooper, president, 716 Chelsea, Houston, Texas.

CHICO AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, CALIFORNIA, Mrs. Mary Seay, president, 536 W. 7th Street, Chico, California.

FIRST AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF CARY, NORTH CAROLINA, Mrs. H. J. Waff, Jr., president, 200 Dry Ave., Cary, North Carolina.

FIRST AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF DALLAS, TEXAS, Mrs. J. R. Millikan, president, Route #1, Grand Prairie, Texas.

RACINE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, WISCONSIN, Mrs. Einar Neilsen, president, 1335 W. 6th Street, Racine, Wisconsin.

TOWN & COUNTRY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, TEXAS, Mrs. Grace Grissom, president, 2112 West Main, Houston, Texas.

GREATER AKRON AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, OHIO, Mrs. W. G. White, president, 770 Garth Ave., Akron, Ohio.

LORIAN COUNTY CHAPTER, OHIO, Mrs. John Reinhardt, president, 364 No. Main Street, Amherst, Ohio.

FIRST AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY, Mrs. Z. L. Zurchmiede, president, 4506 Parker Ave., Louisville, Kentucky.

DETROIT AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, MICHIGAN, Mrs. Louis Biel, president, 2343 Junction Ave., Detroit, Michigan.

LANSING SAINTPAULIANES, LANSING, MICHIGAN, Mrs. Glenn Royce, president, 5280 Miller Road, Lansing, Michigan.

TOWN & COUNTRY AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, OHIO, Mrs. Walter Pabst, president, 14 Elizabeth Street, Delaware, Ohio.

When you receive your statement for dues, pay them through your club treasurer, who will send them to me. All memberships in the Society, new or renewals, sent through an Affiliated Chapter are being forwarded to me, and you will save time and effort if the club treasurer will mail them directly to me.

When you receive this issue of the Magazine, the Christmas season will be near. May the joys and blessings of the holiday season be with you and yours throughout the coming season.

Cordially,
Maxine Wangberg

YOUR LIBRARY

Maisie Yakie, Librarian, P. O. Box 674
Port Arthur, Texas

Peggie Rios, Assistant to the Librarian

It hardly seems possible, but it is Christmas-time once again. This special time of year brings a glow of pleasure to our hearts and souls.

In keeping with the Season's spirit wouldn't it be wonderful for your club members to each donate one, or more plants and then after they have been suitably gift-wrapped, to deliver them to shut-ins in your city or neighborhood? Make these plants ones that are blooming, and freshly groomed, so that they fairly glow with the spirit of love and kindness that you have lavished on them. Take a flat cardboard box, cut a hole in the center, in which to rest the pot, wrap the box in gay Christmas decorations, put a material of complimentary color around the pot. Then place the pot with its lovely plant in the center of the box. Easy isn't it? There you have a simple but effective Christmas wrapping for your gift plants. The joy they will bring to those who receive them will be the brightest star in your Christmas happiness.

Nearly every club has at least one member who is imaginative and blessed with skilled hands. A perfect program for such a person, and particularly fitting at this time of year, is a demonstration of "Taper Trends" or the art of decorating candles with African violet blooms. This is a particularly interesting way to work your favorite plant into your Holiday schemes. If your club isn't able to work this idea into a Christmas theme, remember there are a number of special days just ahead — Mother's Day, Easter, Valentine's Day, to name but a few when this can be done.

Now that we've had a flyer on pure pleasure, back to the serious study angle. A suggested program along these lines would be on the "Use and Methods of Colchicine Treatment." In this program could be presented a great deal of valuable material, if taken from a serious and thorough point of view. The Library has a few, too few I am afraid, articles that might be of help on such a program. It would be particularly interesting if leaves, cuttings, seeds, etc. could be prepared in advance so that they would be ready for the application of colchicine during the program. Various strength solutions could be administered, etc. These treated leaves, cuttings, and seeds could then be distributed to the various members for their further study and enjoyment. If anything worthwhile is produced by the treated materials it could be brought back and shown to the club at a later date. When such is done, it would be quite interesting to have the treated plant and an untreated plant of the same variety shown and a comparison made of the two.

Would like to let you know that we have been able to add eighteen slides to each of the slide programs "What's New" and "African Violet Arrangements and Plants in Unusual Containers." This makes both of these quite large slide groups and the quality of the new slides is even better than those we have had before.

It is with gratitude and pride that we are able to tell you that the Library has received the first donation of this type, coming from the Omaha African Violet Club, Omaha, Nebraska. They very kindly sent to the Library an entire slide program composed of slides of their 1955, 1956, and 1957 shows. We have called this slide program "Omaha—Beacon of the Midwest" because so many people of that general area have told us that this is the biggest show in their area and that it always provides them a view of the best of the old and the new. Also, we have high hopes that the "Beacon" will lead the way for other groups to make similar donations. Please don't think that your group, or you personally, have to donate an entire program — one slide or fifty, each will be appreciated and enjoyed. This program is now available and we know that you will enjoy it just as much as your Librarian has.

If there are any questions in your mind about the programs available from the Library, the method of making reservations, cost, etc., please see the article "Your Library" in the September, 1957, issue of the African Violet Magazine. Full information is contained therein.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish each and everyone of you the greatest possible joy at the Christmas Season and for the New Year, health, happiness and a full measure of success!

THE END



... keeps the soil loose and pliable for better growing. Each pellet of exploded siliceous rock is filled with tiny holes which store air essential to plant growth and health.

Now available in #2 fine, #3 medium, #4 coarse.

½ or 2 Bushel Size.

Samples and Prices on Request.

SPONGE-ROK SALES

Dealer Inquiries Invited.

2112 Hubbard Ave. Middleton, Wis.

MITES AND SODIUM SELENATE

PART 2

Neil C. Miller, Penns Grove, N. J.

ERRATA

Two errors have been detected in Part One of this article, published in the September 1957 issue.

(a) On Page 40, 1st column, third paragraph, Dr. Blauvelt's name is given as Richard E. Blauvelt. His name was Dr. William E. Blauvelt.

(b) On Page 41, 1st column, fourth paragraph, mites are described as having twelve legs. This is incorrect, mites have eight legs.

STORAGE AND DISPOSAL OF EXCESS SODIUM SELENATE

Sodium selenate is a stable chemical, it does not decompose on standing, consequently it is good until used. Storage does present some practical problems however. The gelatin capsules in which most sodium selenate is sold are sensitive to moisture, and unless rigidly protected from moisture in all forms, even relatively low air humidity, will eventually melt or fuse together. The bulk sodium selenate salt contains water of crystallization which is released at about 95°F.; when atmospheric temperature reaches or exceeds this range (as it does in many parts of the United States nearly every year) the selenate dissolves to some extent in its own water and solidifies into a mass whose density is far different from that of the original powder. Bulk measurement then becomes also impossible. Thus while the sodium selenate itself retains all its original potency, storage of either capsules or bulk material at elevated temperature or humidity will result in development of unsatisfactory working qualities.

Sodium selenate solutions in water do not lose strength on standing and are good until used.

The major problem to be considered in storage of excess sodium selenate, however, is not the preservation and potency of the selenate but in the possible danger to persons or pets in keeping it. Labels may come off, containers may be damaged or broken, recognition of sodium selenate as a poisonous material may be lost, its actual existence may be forgotten, containers may be moved into a place where materials of a different nature (medicine, condiments, etc.) are regularly stored and used, the original owner may die or move away, etc., etc.; all of these introduce the possibility that the selenate may subsequently be improperly used, endangering people or pets.

Unless there is definite intention of using the left-over material in a continuing program it is better to discard it as soon as its primary job of ridding the plants of pests has been completed.

The question of where to discard can be, and has been, very perplexing. The statement that "sodium selenate poisons soil" has been so widely quoted that many people have been reticent to discard selenate anywhere for fear of doing damage to some person or animal far in the future. Actually, of course, selenate doesn't permanently poison soil at all. When it is present in soil it will be absorbed by some (but not all) types of plants growing on it. If these plants are then eaten by man or animal the selenate may hurt them. However, sodium selenate is so soluble in water (its solubility approximates that of salt or sugar) that rainfall and ground water will soon effectively remove it from any area where it is discarded. It can't permanently poison soil any more than sugar or salt can permanently make soil sweet or salty.

There is one safe rule to follow in discarding selenate solutions: Discard them where plants eaten by man or animals will not be grown for at least two years. Such places are not difficult to find. Your lawn or flower garden, fence rows, swamps, roadsides, non-grazed wood-lots, etc. Streams of large-volume flow where the selenate concentration would be immediately extremely diluted are even better possibilities.

As a matter of straight practicality probably the best possibility for a selenate discard is the ordinary household sewage disposal system. Whether the system is a primitive outdoor privy, a private septic tank, or a huge municipal system, or any gradation in between, it is extremely unlikely that food plants for man or animal will be grown in the discharge area. Some private septic tanks may discharge under gardens, and the effluent may be picked up by food plants; this possibility should be carefully considered before discarding selenate into them.

Excess solutions or capsules, in the quantity that the ordinary African violet grower is likely to have on hand, can be disposed of as indicated above. Excess concentrated powder is slightly more difficult to dispose of, simply because there is more of it. Greater care must be exercised in selecting the disposal area and the rate of discard. The same principle applies: Avoid areas where plants that will be eaten by man or animal will be grown. But, if several grams or ounces are discarded in a small area be sure that food plants won't be grown in that area for many years in the future.

Be sure also not to discard a quantity of concentrated selenate powder close to a prized or valued decorative tree or shrub. Sodium selenate is a plant poison, and too much of it will kill any plant, so if you discarded several ounces around the roots of a nice young shade tree the tree might not survive. (There are tales of

nuisance trees "just over the line" in adjacent lots being killed off in this way. These make good stories because the method of kill is completely invisible and the wondering neighbor is completely baffled by what has happened to his tree. I doubt, however, that any of these yarns could be verified.)

To be continued.

HYPONEX AFRICAN VIOLET FOOD

HYPONeX African Violet Food is now making its appearance in the horticultural departments of retail stores throughout the country. This plant food is appealingly identified by a colorful package carrying a natural-color reproduction of an African violet.

A product of Hydroponic Chemical Company, Copley, Ohio, HYPONeX African Violet Food is completely soluble in water and scientifically balanced to provide just the right amount of nourishment for the roots, stock, foliage and blooms of these favorite house plants.

Other house plants also can be made more beautiful by an occasional feeding of HYPONeX African Violet Food, according to the manufacturers, who list philodendron, begonia, ivy, geranium and other favorite potting plants as well as African violets — for healthier growth, more verdant foliage and larger, more profuse blooming on the flowering varieties.

Much testing was done by commercial and individual growers over a period of many years to give HYPONeX African Violet Food wide acceptance. Many growers have found it ideally suited to their needs for propagating and cultivating plants for sale, since it induces root strength and general plant health without overstimulating or burning.

HYPONeX African Violet Food is packaged in a variety of sizes from the small 10¢ and 25¢ counter-selling sizes up to drum sizes for commercial use. It is economical to use since one ounce of the concentrated food dissolves in water for use to make 6 gallons of liquid fertilizer. Dealers are invited to write the manufacturer, Hydroponic Chemical Company, Inc., Copley 21, Ohio, for prices and additional information.

THE END

Specialize in Hybridizing African Violets

Beautiful New Varieties, Fine New Whites

Ship from March to November

3¢ STAMP FOR LIST

VISITORS WELCOME

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AFRICAN VIOLETS

Plants, leaves, rooted cuttings and large variety of seedling violets. Mist bottles, fiberglass flower boxes, unglazed strawberry jars — all sizes, and other supplies. Visitors welcome — No shipping on violets

NOKER'S GREENHOUSE

W. Chestnut Ave.

Vineland, N. J.

AFRICAN VIOLET SUPPLIES

— PLASTIC POTS —

2¼" Round or Square —
25/\$1.00, 50/\$1.75, 100/\$3.00.

3" Round or Square —
25/\$1.50, 50/\$2.75, 100/\$5.25.

4" Round or Square —
25/\$3.00, 50/\$5.50, 100/\$10.00.

Round Pots — Utility colors. Marbelized.

Square Pots in yellow, green, red, white. All alike or assorted colors.

Jiffy Pots — Composed of 75% peat, 25% wood fibre and impregnated with fertilizer.

Roots grow thru pots.
2½" — 25/\$1.00, 50/\$1.75, 100/\$3.00.

Plant Marvel — 8 oz. can \$1.00.

Plastic Markers — white. 100/\$1.25.

Plastic Markers colored — pink, orchid, green, light blue, yellow. 100/\$2.50. Alike or assorted.

3F. Gives plants spectacular new life and vigor, practically over night with wonder-working trace elements in foliar formula with GIBBERELLIN.

Free Fog Sprayer with package sufficient to make 5 gallons of 3F foliar spray. \$2.50 plus 25¢ postage.

Free Fog Sprayer with sufficient to make 2½ gallons \$1.25.

Trial size — enough for 2 quarts. 10¢ plus stamped envelope.

Choicest varieties of African Violets at greenhouse only.

MRS. N. B. WILSON

4184 Bankhead Hwy., Rt. 3, Austell, Georgia

CHAFF FROM CRICKEN FARM



Ver a Covert, Amsterdam, New York

Hi folks! It's almost Christmas again . . . isn't it a wonderful season? The air is so crisp and tangy here in New York State, not too far from the beautiful Adirondack Mountains. As snowflakes drift down — let's ignore the fact that they have to be cleared from the driveway and walks — it's pleasant to look out the window, over the tops of our blooming African violets, and think a bit about our neighbors and friends and the year that is coming to a close.

We should be addressing that stack of greeting cards. Instead, let's be a bit lazy today and chat over a fresh pot of coffee. Speaking of greeting cards, this is such a good time to write a short personal "hello" to our friends. There are so many to whom we should write a long, newsy letter . . . yet a short message on our Christmas card lets them know we are thinking of them.

And what a wonderful opportunity this is to remember the shut-ins and so-called folks with a gift of a lovely plant. It carries its own warm personal message and gives pleasure for months to come. It may add new interest to someone's dull existence or cheer someone who is ill. So let's share our African violets and their beauty, especially at this season when the spirit of giving is uppermost in our hearts. Half the joy of growing plants is sharing them with others. The poet, James Lowell, expressed it so beautifully in his poem, "The Vision of Sir Launfal" . . . "Not what we give, but what we share — For the gift without the giver is bare."

Pardon me a moment, someone is knocking at my door. "Well, good morning, Grandma. You look real pert and spry today. Do come in and have some hot coffee and tell me why you look so excited."

"For Land Sakes! Right spang-dab in the middle of makin' my plum pudding and mince pies, I remembered something Paw gave me to read awhile back. Had an awful time afindin' it . . . I never seem to remember where I put sech things. It was so good I wanted to share it. Do you 'spose you'd have a teeny speck of space in your column for it? Paw'd be real pleased to see it in print. Got it right here in my apron pocket . . . jest a minute till I get my readin' specs on. Pshaw, this ain't it! This here is a new recipe for doughnuts. Couldn't resist tryin' it. Never know when a body will find a better way to do something . . . but I'll bet a cookie Paw will say he likes my old recipe best. Men are funny. Oh, here it is . . . now you jest listen real close while I read it to you. The title is 'Recipe For A Rich Day.'"

"Have YOU lost YOUR perspective on Forgetting and Remembering? Can you forget what you have done for others and remember instead what THEY have done for YOU; think about what you may owe the world — not what the world owes you? Just for a day, you might try putting your rights in the very bottom of the barrel, and your duties in the middle, then at the very top your chances and opportunities to do a wee bit more than is required of you. Try to see that your neighbor is as real as you are. Look behind his tired and discouraged eyes and care-lined face, and you'll see a heart, hungry for a friendly word and some of life's happiness. Admit that you should justify your existence in part, by what you are willing to give to life, not what you think life should give to you. For one day, close that big Book of Complaints Against the World . . . and then, look for a spot where you can sow a few seeds of contentment, joy, courage and faith. Would you be willing to try this for just ONE DAY . . . YOU would be richer . . . your NEIGHBOR would be richer and we'd all live in a better world. Isn't it worth a try, my friends, just for one day?"

"Now ain't that a nice thought for your Christmas column? 'Course it ain't jest for Christmas . . . but for the whole year. My, wouldn't it be pleasant if everyone did it for jest one day. It don't cost nuthin' . . . so anybody can afford it.

"Say, that's a right pretty plant . . . reminds me of the blue in the Madonna's cloak. What do you call it? Pilgrim Maid . . . what a nice name . . . would you mind if I took it over to Emmy . . . she's been laid up with her arthritis again an' can't hardly get around. An' she jest loves blue. An' Sally Lou came down with chicken pox three days ago . . . she's still in bed. I'll bet she'd like that one . . . little girls always like pink. No . . . not that double one . . . I mean that star shaped blossom. Oh . . . its name IS Star Pink. She'd like the name too. This is the time of year to think about that Special Star that guided the wise men, so that's a good plant to take her. I think I can carry one more, if you felt you could spare that one with the big red single bloom. What's its name? Oh . . . makes sort of a joke . . . I'm takin' a plant called Red

Buttons to an old bachelor who hates to sew on buttons. That's how I found out he hurt his back. I know I don't make sense . . . I'll try to explain. I sew on old Robbie MacDougal's buttons an' do his mendin'. The poor old fellow needs someone to give him a hand. He jest can't seem to do some things at all . . . yet he has a window full of sech purty growin' things, but nary an African violet. So this here one will add a new interest.

"Now will you jest LOOK at the time! My land, I didn't mean to set so long. Thanks for the plants . . . an' come over for fruit cake an' coffee during the holidays. G'bye now."

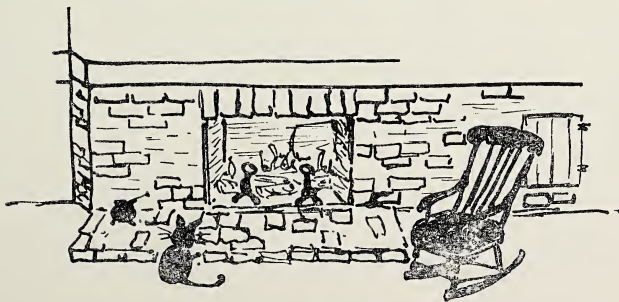
So there goes Grandmaw. She is a pretty cute old character and she has the right idea, bless her heart. Always doing some small thing for a neighbor. Her excuse is, to quote her own words, "Cause it makes me feel so warm an' cozy inside." I guess she reads her Good Book frequently and has memorized the passage (Matthew 25-40) which says, "And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

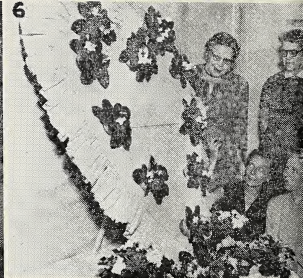
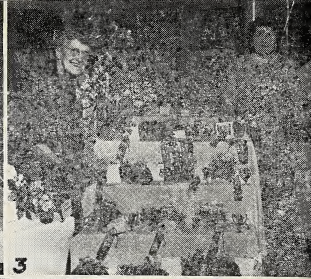
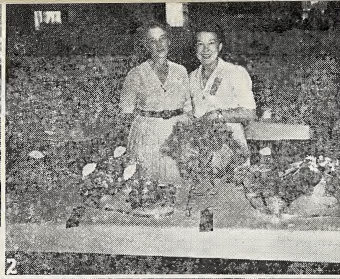
At this point, Ed Underwood would say, "End of sermon . . . we will now pass the hat."

I DO want to tell everyone how very much I have enjoyed all your letters this past year. You have sent me some unusual and interesting side lights in this hobby of raising Gesneriads. In re-reading the mail, I'm tempted to do a column, sharing these ideas and experiences. So don't be surprised should you see part of your letter in print. And, who knows, one day I might pop in to see some of you who live fairly close. My husband and I often take a two or three day trip through New England to browse through antique shops. I usually manage to get in a "violet visit" with one or two folks, even tho I have never met them previously. I guess some of you readers will recall my dropping in on you. It's such fun . . . I hope you don't mind.

In closing my column for this year, I want to wish you and your families a contented and prosperous New Year. Good health to all of you, and may you enjoy God's richest blessings.

THE END





1 - Union County Chapter exhibit. Staged by Mrs. C. B. Ward. Left to right, Messres. Glen Hudson, H. Seccor, Hugh Dunn, E. L. Klotz, C. B. Ward. 2 - National Award winners Santa Monica Bay Chapter, left to right, Mrs. Esther Sherer, Mrs. James Johnson. 3 - Schoharie Valley Society exhibit. Left to right, Messres. Laura Vincent, Arkel Rose, Archie Hynds. 4 - Exhibit of First African Violet Society of Dallas. Left to right, Messres. J. W. Hofmann, R. B. Watson, Sara McCoy, Theo Russell, John Buback, Edward Bone. 5 - Mrs. Alexander Colyer, presenting trophy to Mrs. John Nirmaier at Long Island show and Mr. George Gillen who won second place. 6 - Pictured at the Fairveiv African Violet show are: standing, Mrs. Helen Morgan, Mrs. Virginia Cherry, and front, Mrs. Pauline Banks, Mrs. Erma Willis.

SHOW News and Views

Eunice Fisher, Show Editor, Route 3, Box 281, Oshkosh, Wisconsin

SHOW CALENDAR

THE BEATRICE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, BEATRICE, NEBRASKA. will hold its sixth annual African Violet Show on April 12th and 13th, 1958, at the City Auditorium.

● **THE LAWRENCE AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB** of Lawrence, Kansas, will hold its annual African violet show April 12-13, 1958, at the City Community Building. Open 11:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on the 12th. Open 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. the 13th.

● **THE SYRACUSE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY**, Syracuse, New York, will hold its sixth annual show at the Syracuse Museum of Fine Arts on May 3-4, 1958.

● **THE OMAHA AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB**, Omaha, Nebraska, will hold their 1958 show in the Floral Court of the Joslyn Museum, on March 1 and 2, 1958.

● **THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** of Washington, Pennsylvania, held its first African violet show on May 7, 1957, in the Y. W. C. A. Auditorium.

With a blue curtain as the background the theme, Violet Wonderland was written in large colored letters. There were about two hundred twenty-five plants entered, from a club of forty members. The Gold Ribbon Award was given to Mrs. George Williams for the three best registered plants. The Purple Ribbon Award went to Mrs. Andrew Balent for the next best plants. Queen of the show went to a plant of Rose Pink Queen.

Mrs. Fay Eakin was staging chairman. Mrs. Robert G. Engle served as chairman of the show.

● **THE FIRST AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** of Cary, North Carolina, held its first show May 18-19, 1957, in the American Legion Hut. The theme of the show was Twelve Months With African Violets. The show was non-competitive and about two hundred plants were entered, which represented nearly one hundred varieties.

Card tables were used to hold a display representing each month of the year. It began with January at the entrance door, and continued around the room until December finished the circle.



1 - The Violeteers (Indiana). Left to right, Messrs. Michael Pachowiak, Jr., Howard Clough, Russell Sherrick, Raymond Boehlein. 2 - An exhibit at the Trenton, New Jersey Society show. 3 - At the Elgin show Mrs. Bee Wills is pictured with her Affiliated Chapter Leadership Award. Standing left to right, Messrs. Leo Schmidt, Wilda Fairchild, Merrill Boone.

● **THE MILWAUKEE COUNTY AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** held its annual show and tea at the Wauwatosa Recreational Center on May 18-19, 1957. The theme of the exhibit, Rainbow of Violets, was well carried out by a show of color. Display tables were covered with delicate pink tablecloths. Programs also were in pastel colors.

Under the leadership of the president, Mrs. Walter Rittel, and the general show chairman, Mrs. Arthur Geisler, the show was a decided success. There were 632 entries. Nine accredited National judges were kept busy in judging the show and awarding 397 ribbons, eleven purple rosettes, one hundred-and-one blue ribbons, one hundred-thirty-eight red ribbons, ninety-seven white ribbons, and fifty yellow ribbons.

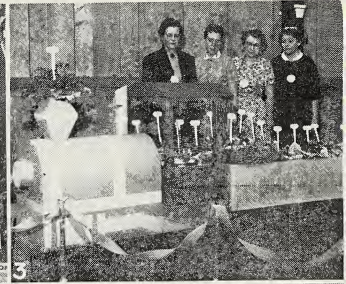
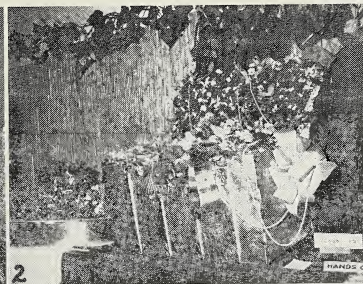
Mr. Zachary Thorne captured the coveted National Gold Ribbon for his three registered blue ribbon entries, Snow Prince, Azure Beauty, and Bronze Girl. Mrs. James Thompson received an award for her plant Evelyn Johnson, as the best plant in the first time exhibitor class.

The sweepstakes award went to Mrs. J. J. Hinton for the greatest number of points. Gem of the show went to Mrs. Hinton for her plant Attraction. Best pink award went to Mrs. Richard Wais for Pink Fringette. Mrs. H. R. Bullis was given the best table award; best screen award, Mrs. Edward Bartlog; best container award, Mrs. H. R. Bullis; best arrangement, Mrs. Marvin Luttrupp. Mrs. Arthur Niblo was given an award for selling the most tickets.

● **THE FIRST AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** of Lynchburg, Virginia, held its seventh annual African violet show on May 4-5 1957, with Mrs. J. E. Jarrett serving as general chairman.

The theme of the show was Hill City Violet Festival, with arrangements of violets in attractive containers, and with violets predominating. Specimen plants also were displayed. Mrs. Claude Thornhill won the sweepstakes prize which was a beautiful silver bowl that had been presented by

1 - Admiring the winning plant at the Greater Akron show are Messrs. Perry Watrous, Guy Edington, W. G. White. 2 - First prize in the theme arrangement, by Mrs. Iva Doman, Long Beach Society show. 3 - Left to right, Messrs. Gordon Howes, Irving Stinson, Andrew Chickas, Fred Nelson at the Paradise Green Saintpaulia Society show. 4 - At the Portland show Mrs. Harold Hillwertz and Mrs. William Huttel are pictured with their prize winning plants. 5 - Mrs. E. S. Post and the "April" display at the Sheridan African violet show. 6 - Mrs. M. J. Silvers and Mrs. Russell E. Wood compare plants at the Raleigh African violet show.





1 - Mrs. John Pierce proudly holds her prize plant at the Memphis and Shelby County show. 2 - Pictured at the Los Angeles show is Mrs. C. H. Harris with her new introduction Pink Waverly. 3 - Mrs. Harmon Hedrick and her award plant at the Town and Country show (Indiana). 4 - National Gold Ribbon Award winner at the St. Louis show was Mrs. Fred Tretter.

First National Trust and Savings Bank. Best in the show went to Miss Florence Adams. Largest blooming plant was exhibited by Mrs. W. B. Harvey.

Judges were Mrs. R. R. Blackburn, Mrs. C. A. Daniel, Miss Evelyn Gallant, and Mrs. Joe Weaver, all of Highpoint, North Carolina.

● **THE SCHOHARIE VALLEY AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** held its spring show May 11, 1957, at the American Legion Hall in Cobleskill, New York. Charles Wicks, president and general chairman of the show, assisted by his committees, based the entire show around the theme "Violet Patch."

Many awards were given in both amateur and commercial sections. These classes were judged by Mrs. F. W. Thielmann, Mrs. P. E. Niles, Mrs. Vada Ferguson, and Mrs. Angelo Grasso. Beautiful arrangements were also exhibited and were judged by Mrs. W. H. Gilbert. Luncheon was served at noon to the members and judges. Tea and cookies were served to the public in the afternoon and evening. Door prizes were donated by the Lyons of Dolgeville and by Mrs. Mary Gleasman.

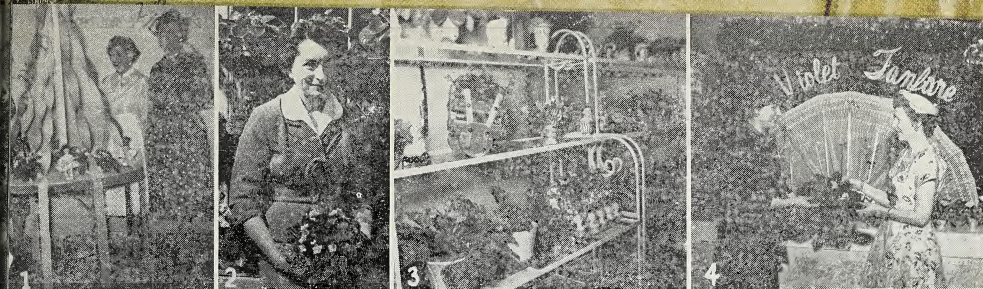
● **THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY AND VICINITY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB** chose the theme of Springtime for the sixth annual show April 14, 1957, at the Village Building in Geneseo, New York.

Queen of the show was awarded to Mrs. Fred Flory for her plant of Strike-Me-Pink. Runner up went to Mrs. Vivian Clinton for White Madonna. Junior queen of the show was awarded to Mr. Lewis Cook for St. Louis. Mrs. John McClymont won runner-up to junior queen of show with a plant of Fluor Petite.

Mrs. Flory was also awarded the National Gold Ribbon for her collection of three best plants, and the New York state tri-colored rosette for the best plant originated and grown in New York state. Mr. Lewis Cook was sweepstakes winner with fifteen blue ribbons and Mrs. Flory won runner-up with twelve blue ribbons. Mrs. Elmer Ace won queen of the decorative class.

1 - The Harmony and Hi-Lo Society show at Boise, Idaho. 2 - Court of Honor plants, Society of Syracuse New York show. 3 - Members of the Beatrice African Violet Society are pictured at their show. 4 - Central stage at African Violet Society of Bay County Florida show. 5 - View of Milwaukee County African Violet Society show. 6 - At the York Pennsylvania Society show members admire the attractive arrangements.





1 - Enjoying the Top O'Jersey exhibits are Messres. Michael Waskowich, Marcel Duvoison, Dorothy Spangenburg and Roy Pittenger. 2 - Mrs. Charles Bump of the Des Moines Society is shown holding her prize winning show plant. 3 - A view of the special arrangements at the Norfolk, Nebraska show. 4 - Mrs. A. A. Boyce and Mrs. Roy Alson and the theme exhibit of The Double 10 Society show.

● **THE BUCKEYE LAKE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** held its annual show May 26th, 1957, at the Park Terrace, Buckeye Lake, Ohio, with a large number of violets entered.

Judges were Mrs. G. D. Wolf, Dayton, Ohio; Mrs. Edna Bradshaw, Dublin, Ohio; and Mrs. Iva Wade, Buckeye Lake, Ohio. Ohio State awards went to: First to Mrs. Helen Perkins of Newark, Ohio, second to Mrs. Ethel McElhinney, Millersport, Ohio. Mrs. McElhinney also won sweepstakes with the largest number of blue ribbons.

● **THE NORFOLK SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY** celebrated its third anniversary by holding a breakfast and open house at the home of Mrs. William Thenhaus. The theme of the show was Melody in Violets, and the arrangements illustrated titles of songs both old and new. A program of slides and movies showed views of private collections and former shows. Tea was served to the guests with Mrs. Thenhaus presiding.

● **GREATER AKRON AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** held its annual two-day show April 29-30, 1957, in O'Neils second floor auditorium with the theme of Lavender and Old Lace. The president, Mrs. W. G. White, appointed Mrs. Perry Watrous show chairman. She was assisted by a fine committee of helpers.

● **THE DOUBLE TEN AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB** of Lansing Michigan, held its 3rd bi-annual show with the theme of Violet Fanfare at the Women's Clubhouse May 3, 1957. Mrs. O. R. Cooper

1 - Exhibit "Sportsman's Holiday" blue ribbon winner by popular vote at the Racine Society show. 2 - Willows California African Violet Society display. 3 - Mrs. Mary Seay and Mrs. C. E. Boysel admire plants in the Chico, California Society display at the Silver Dollar Fair. 4 - The Twin City African Violet Society (Indiana) show had a most attractive violet hat exhibit. 5 - May Pole arrangement by Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Frick at African Violet Club of Stanley County show. 6 - Mrs. J. W. McGlathery and Mrs. Harold Meinhardt are pictured before a prize winning exhibit at the Greater Pittsburgh Society show.





1 - A group viewing the entries at the Davidson County Society of African Violet Clubs show. 2 and 3 - Mrs. Betty Deckelman and Mrs. Elsie Creswell and the handsome trophies they won at the Baltimore show.

was general show chairman, Mrs. Roy H. Olson was staging chairman, and Mrs. Clara Smith sales booth chairman.

Judges for the show were Mrs. Mary Stanton and Prof. Evan P. Roberts, M. S. U. Sweepstakes winner was Mrs. Harold W. England and she also won the award for the largest blooming plant. Best of the show went to Mrs. Josephine Toogood, who also had the smallest blooming plant.

● **THE TOP 'O JERSEY AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** presented its second African violet exhibit on May 13, 1957, in the Service Extension Building, Newton, New Jersey, under the leadership of Mrs. Charles Aten as show chairman.

The theme for the show was May Dance of the Violets. A May pole was featured, decorated in pastel shades, as were the tables. There were sixteen arrangements shown and one hundred fifty-seven plants exhibited.

● **THE MAGIC VALLEY SAINTPAULIA CLUB** of Twin Falls, Idaho, held its fifth annual show May 3, 1957, at the YWCA rooms.

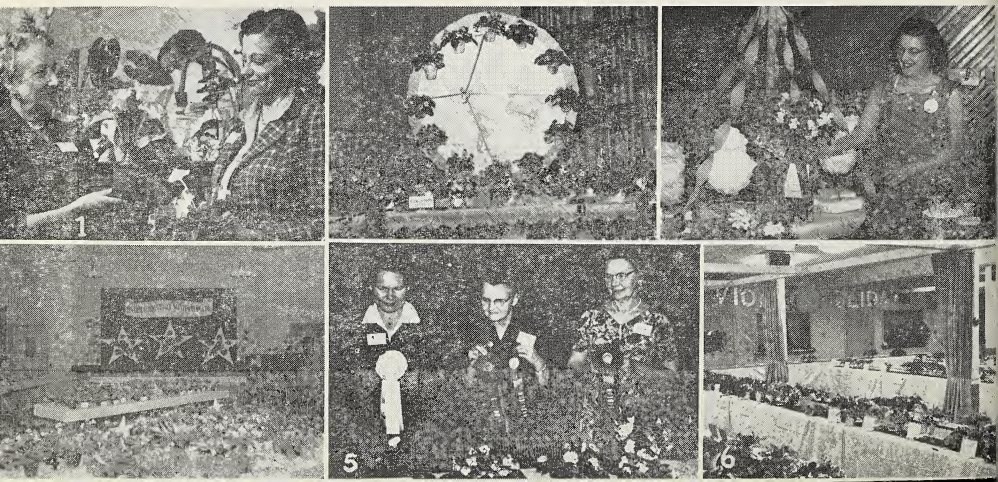
Theme of the show was Any Time is Violet Time, and featured the four seasons of the year. Each month had an appropriate arrangement. Mrs. Victor Nelson won best plant in the show with her Helen Montgomery; Hi-Loa Light Blue won largest plant for Mrs. Wm. Grange; Mrs. Nelson had the smallest blooming plant, a Frosted Madonna; and the best miniature plant was Blue Ice by Mrs. Nelson. Mrs. D. J. Dorton had the best growing arrangement; Mrs. Kenneth Hodder the best arrangement using other flowers; Mrs. Victor Nelson showed a strawberry jar.

Mrs. Nelson, Mrs. I. G. Prescott, and Mrs. Wm. Grange served as the staging committee for the show.

● **SIOUX FALLS SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY** held its third annual violet show at Nordic Hall April 13-14, 1957, using the theme Rainbow of Violets. Mrs. Helgerson was sweepstakes winner and Mrs. Roy Sanford won best plant in the show. Best arrangement went to Mrs. L. J. Larson.

● **THE MARYLAND AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB**, Baltimore, Md., held its sixth annual show April 19-20, 1957. There were one hundred seventy-three specimens shown in thirty-six classes and thirty-three arrangements in four classes. Mrs. Herman Graf was show chairman. Mr. Arch Horne won

1 - Mrs. Myrtle Goodrich presents Mrs. Helen Bergthold with a trophy at the Pomona Valley Chapter show. 2 - First prize display by George Wessale at Cedar Valley Club show. 3 - Mrs. Frank Taylor's prize plant is admired by Mrs. William Herten at the Happy 'Ours Society show. 4 - Central Connecticut Saintpaulia Club show. 5 - Pictured with awards won at the Yakima Valley Club show are: Messrs. E. H. McClain, John Hope, Guy France. 6 - The Story City African Violet Club show.





1 - A little view of the Siouxland Society show. 2 - Mr. and Mrs. John Buckner and their National Gold Ribbon Award plants at the Kansas City show. 3 - Mrs. W. J. Cowart admires Mrs. Lester Hammer's prize tri-color ribbon plant at the Tennessee Valley African Violet Club show.

best in the show with a plant of Ohio Bountiful. Best in arrangements went to Mrs. Curtis H. Brown. Mrs. Harlan E. Grace won the sweepstakes.

● **THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** of San Francisco, for the fifth consecutive year, participated in the annual San Francisco Flower Show, which was held on August 22-23, 1957.

Mrs. Bette Ward won the sweepstakes in the beginners class, and Mrs. Alice Black won sweepstakes in the amateur class. Best plant in the show was Rose Wing, grown by Mrs. Alice Black. The largest plant in the show, a lovely plant of Blue Lady, was exhibited by Mrs. Adeline Barta.

Judges were Mrs. Verne Bragg, Mrs. Rolette Frazer, and Mrs. Millie Blair. Mrs. Edward Nienstadt, Jr. was show manager of the African violet division.

● **THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB** of Knoxville, Tennessee, held its annual show April 25, 1957, in the Lion's Club Community Club House. Mrs. Hugh P. Day was show chairman, Mrs. Lester Hammer was co-chairman. The theme of the show was Showers of Violets. The exhibit featuring the theme of the show, which was a long table of dolls each carrying an umbrella to match her dress and sheltering a violet, was given a blue ribbon. The Lucille Kile trophy cups were awarded to Mrs. Lester Hammer, for the best plant in the show, and for winning the most blue ribbons.

Judges for the show were Mrs. Alma Wright, Mrs. Helen Gloff, and Mrs. Lucille Kile.

● **THE DAVIDSON COUNTY SOCIETY OF AFRICAN VIOLET CLUBS** staged a beautiful show at Joy's Floral Center, Nashville, Tennessee, May 3-4, 1957. The Society is composed of seven clubs in Davidson County and one in Wilson County.

The theme of the show was Maytime Magic With African Violets. The best plants in eighteen classes were arranged on a two-tiered table with ribbons to match each plant. The queen of the show was enthroned as May Queen. Mrs. Ed. Taylor's Meteor was May Queen. She also won the sweepstakes prize which was a lovely silver tray, presented by the Everly Furnace Company. The sweepstakes runner-up was a tie between Mrs. Robert Westmorland of the Ingleswood Club and Mrs. C. J. Major of the Melrose Club. Mrs. H. H. P'Pool served as show chairman.

● **THE AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB** of Trenton, New Jersey, held its seventh annual show April 11-12-13, 1957, at Trinity Cathedral. The show was built around the theme A Wedding Album. Arrangements and compositions carried out the theme in such classes as Keepsakes of the Wedding, Across the Threshold and The Honeymoon.

Mrs. Frank Robbins won the queen of the show trophy; Mrs. John Skelton took the sweepstakes award. Mrs. Koksay took first in non-member section, and theme of the show entry went to the African Violet Club of Hightstown, N. J. Mr. Nickolas J. Nanni was chairman of the show.

● **THE TOWN AND COUNTRY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB**, Houston, Texas, was proud to have its first show February 10, 1957. This was also the first African violet show to be held in Houston. The theme of the show was Fashions in Violets. There were two hundred fifteen plants exhibited, besides arrangements and species exhibits. Mrs. David W. Kennedy was show chairman. Sweepstakes and best of show were won by Mrs. Grace T. Grissom.

● **THE STANLEY COUNTY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB** of Albemarle, N. C., held its two day show May 4-5, 1957, in the Hotel Albemarle Ballroom. Violet Time was chosen as the theme of the show. The center of attraction was a clock four feet in diameter on a stand like an easel. The face of the clock was white, the hands were painted gold, and violets in three inch pots were the numerals. There was a special display of a May Day Pole which won the tri-colored ribbon for Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Frick, New London, N. C.

● **THE PORTLAND AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** held its two day show at the time of an all North West Convention on May 25-26, 1957, at the Women's Club Building, Portland, Oregon.

Mrs. Tom Fenolio was convention chairman; Mrs. Harold A. Hillwertz was show chairman; Mrs. Wm. Huttel, co-chairman. Northwest Violets of Friendship was the theme of the show. Mrs. Rose Keigley of Gig Harbor, Washington, won the sweepstakes for the most blue ribbons. Mrs. Harold A. Hillwertz won best plant in the show with a plant of Blue Dart. She also won the gold cup presented by Blackamas Greenhouse for the best dark blue single specimen.

The show was judged by Mrs. J. C. Morley, Seattle; Mrs. A. E. Overman, Tacoma; Mrs. Ruth Carr, Orting; Mrs. E. A. Peterson, Longview, and Mrs. Fulmer of Seattle.

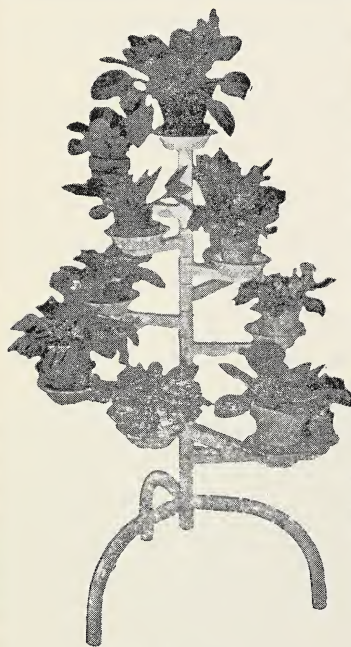
④ **THE HORTICULTURAL SHOW** held in conjunction with the Medicine Hat Stampede and Exhibition at Medicine Hat, Alberta, included a popular display of African violets grown by Mrs. A. Preddy of Redcliff, Alberta. The most beautiful of the double pinks was a plant of Minnesota, a variety from the Tonkadale Greenhouse. The first prize awarded to violets went to a plant of Autumn. The second prize went to Blue Purity, and third prize went to Dark Glory.

⑤ **THE TWIN CITY AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** presented its third annual violet show May 4-5, 1957. Four local South Bend and Mishawaka, Indiana clubs joined together to present the finest show up to this time.

The focal point of the show was a tiered table in the center of the auditorium with plants displayed in china doll's heads. Attractive displays were arranged by members of the Twin City African Violet Society, including a table of T. V. Series, a table of double pinks, and one of miniatures.

The South East Violette Club used a garden setting to display its plants; the Friendly Violet Club displayed various shades of violets. Mrs. Hugh Davis served as general chairman of the show.

● **THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** of York, Pennsylvania, held its fourth annual show May 3-4, 1957, at the Shiloh Fire Hall, Shiloh, Pa. The exhibit was planned on a non-competitive basis in order to arouse the interest of more people in African violets.



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TOPEKA, KANSAS

The back wall of the hall displayed table arrangements on the theme Violets the Year Round. A tiered wedding cake was the center of attraction, with many varieties of white violets in the arrangement. There were three hundred fifty plants displayed, representing one hundred fifty varieties.

Mrs. Phillip Filing and Mrs. J. Chester Krall served as show chairmen, and Mrs. Paul Frey and Mrs. Bernard Stough were staging chairmen.

● **THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF CANTON, OHIO**, held their violet show at Polsky's store on May 20, 1957. The theme of the show was "Queen for a Day."

There were two hundred and sixty-seven entries in the show. Mrs. Carlos Parks was grand winner with her entry "Lorna Doone" and was awarded the Polsky cup. Mrs. R. H. Hill received the largest number of blue ribbons, twenty-one. Winner of the classification "Queen for a Day" was Mrs. J. C. Wiseman, with a composition suggesting the show's theme.

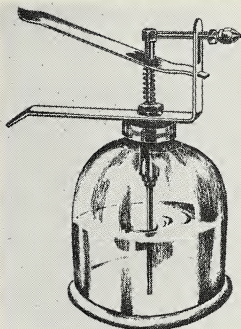
The largest plant in the show was Ionantha, entered by Mrs. H. H. Bircher; and the smallest plant was entered by Mrs. Carlos Parks.

Mrs. Henry Gossmar was in charge of the educational display which showed the various stages of growth of the African violet from seed to maturity.

Mrs. R. H. Hill was general chairman. Judges were Mrs. Ross Harness, Mrs. J. D. Dietz, Mrs. E. Pearle Turner and Mrs. Fred Morgan.

● **THE BALTIMORE AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND** was invited to participate in a school fair at the Franklin School on September 20th and 21st, 1957.

At this time the club had some lovely show plants to display and a quantity of small plants to sell, which helped the school make its annual fair a success again this year.



NEW LIGHT WEIGHT WATER-FOG VIOLET SPRAYER

Light as a feather! New plastic sprayer weighs less than half a pound. Easy one-hand operation. Will not tire you. Soft squeeze of handle sprays clouds of fine water-fog mist. Moistens leaves of African Violets, Gardenias, all garden and house plants. Promotes bloom and growth. New colorful translucent polyethylene container is non-corrosive and unbreakable. Heavy duty nickel plated brass parts in positive action pump. Precision built for long uninterrupted service. Manufacturer will repair or replace with 1-day service, if ever needed. Sprays water-fog, insecticides, fungicides, moth spray, all garden and household sprays. Half-pint size \$4.95; Pint \$5.45; Quart \$5.95 postpaid.

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BUD'S KIMBERLEY &
BUD'S PINK VALENTINE
Have been registered.

A cash prize will be offered
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1958

National Convention
For the best grown plant of each of these
two varieties.

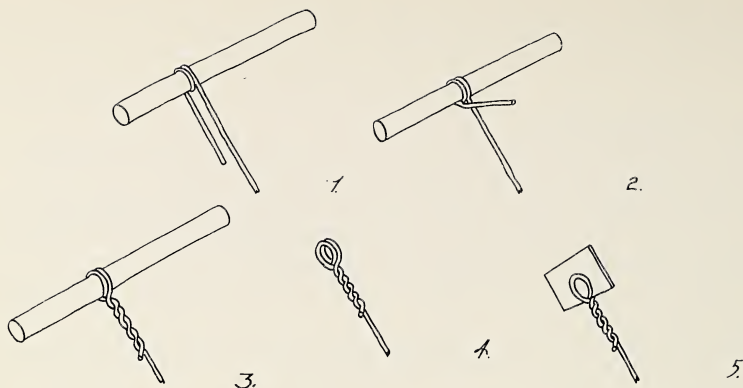
Wishing you the best for the year to come!

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Caro

R#4

Michigan



Easy To Make Labels

Home made tags or labels for your African violets may be inexpensively and quickly made from white plastic covered bell wire and heavy white paper or light weight cardboard. These labels can be made so as to stand up well above the plant's foliage — tall or short as the size of the plant demands.

This helpful idea was contributed by Mrs. William Malitz of Tomahawk, Wisconsin who says, "Please do not give me credit for originating this idea as it was sent to me by a friend."

To make the label firmly loop the end wire twice around a round pencil and then wrap the wire back around the longer length of wire as shown in the diagram. Insert the cardboard for the name between the loops.

Decide on the height label you need and then cut the end of the wire accordingly. A little practice will enable you to produce a neat professional looking job.

CERAMIC EAR RINGS, \$1.50 — PINS, \$2.00
15 cents postage. Life sized blossoms — natural
violet shades.

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LIFETIME PLASTIC MARKERS are ideal for the grower or dealer who wants easy to mark, permanent, easy to read identification of plants, cuttings or seedlings. Also used for naming and pricing plants on display for sale or in shows.

Write on LIFETIME PLASTIC MARKERS with ordinary soft or medium lead pencil. May be used indoors or outside. They may be cleaned with household cleanser and reused repeatedly. Will not rot or disintegrate.

Style A is used for African violets and other house plants in greenhouse or home.
Label is $\frac{1}{2}$ x 2", total length $4\frac{1}{2}$ ".

Postpaid prices: 75 for \$1.00, 100 for \$1.25, 500 for \$5.50.

Style B is ideal for plants on display for sale or in shows. The large 2" x 1" label is easily read.
Adjust for correct angle by dipping in boiling water and bending.

Postpaid prices: 50 for \$2.00, 100 for \$2.75, 500 for \$11.00.



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Wausau, Wis.

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TRACE ELEMENTS ARE ESSENTIAL TO GROWTH

SUFFICIENT QUANTITIES OF
MOST EXIST IN SOIL

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What are trace elements? A total of fifteen chemical elements are known to be essential for plant growth, according to John W. Mastalerz, professor of floriculture at Pennsylvania State University, who prepared the following information.

They include carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, sulfur, calcium, magnesium, iron, manganese, boron, zinc, copper and molybdenum.

The first three, carbon, hydrogen and oxygen, are obtained from the air or water and usually are available in sufficient quantity for plant growth. The remaining twelve elements are taken up by plants from the soil. Plant growth may decrease if the supply of these elements is not adequate or the balance between them not properly adjusted.

Nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, sulfur, calcium and magnesium are known as the major elements because plants require them in relatively large quantities. They make up the main components of mixed fertilizers or lime.

Iron, manganese, boron, zinc, copper and molybdenum are known as the trace, micro or minor elements because they are required by plants in extremely small quantities. The term, minor elements, suggests that these trace elements are somewhat less important than the major elements. Quite the contrary, they are just as critical for normal plant development as the major elements. Normal growth or effective

utilization of the major fertilizer elements does not occur when the trace elements are deficient.

In most greenhouse soils trace elements are available in sufficient quantity for optimum plant growth. Except for boron, the possibility of other trace elements becoming deficient is remote. Plants occasionally develop iron deficiency symptoms. It is not the absence of iron in the soil that is responsible but the unavailability of the iron because of root injury or particular soil conditions. High pH, poor drainage, low soil temperatures, high soluble salts, or any factor causing root injury shows up in the tops of the plants as an iron chlorosis.

Where plant symptoms indicate the presence of a trace element deficiency, the best and safest solution is to apply the particular element in question. An optimum level of the deficient element can be obtained more efficiently and with less danger when applied separately, rather than as a part of a trace element mixture. Usually most mixtures don't contain sufficient quantities of the deficient element to prevent symptoms. Also there is the danger of adding toxic quantities of other trace elements.

THE END

Best Wishes for a
Merry Christmas and a
most Happy New Year

Doris Leigh

— home grown quality plants —

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The "Indoor Greenhouse" for growing and displaying African violets, gloxinias and other house plants. The FLUOR-AL may be used with or without fluorescent lights. Fixtures combining fluorescent and incandescent lights are now available (optional). The FLUOR-AL is constructed entirely of solid aluminum, with full size (nearly 20" x 52") aluminum trays for bottom watering. Provision is made for mounting an automatic time switch on the top bracket, thus combining all necessary accessories into one unit. Supplied complete with all wiring, extension cords, etc.

The FLUOR-AL is the most beautiful, most practical and highest quality of all "apartment greenhouses." You will be proud to show it to your friends and customers. An exclusive feature is the ease with which the lights may be adjusted up to a maximum height of nearly 18" above the trays.

A beautiful, well proportioned model is also available with two shelves.

Send post card for full details, prices and shipping information.

Send us your order for the new book GARDENING INDOORS UNDER LIGHTS by Frederic and Jacqueline Kranz. Full information for making and using equipment for growing flowers, vegetables and other plants by artificial light. 241 pages, plus 16 pages of illustrations, \$4.95 postpaid.

We are in position to supply the light fixtures combining fluorescent and incandescent light as described in this book as well as TIME-ALL automatic controls, soil mixes, compost, plastic markers, etc. Ask for price list.

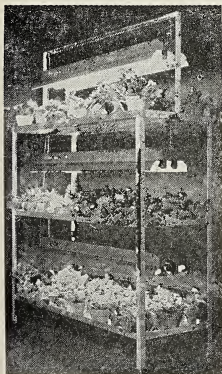
Also available — Peggie Schulz's book GROWING PLANTS UNDER ARTIFICIAL LIGHT. 146 pages, illustrated, \$3.50.

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MOTIONS

"Purpose of" — "When not in order" —
"How to word them"

If everyone in an assembled group would get an idea of something they thought the group should do and all spoke at once on their idea, confusion would surely reign. To prevent such disorder, ideas are put before the assembly one at a time in the form of motions.

When there is an order of business to follow in a meeting, only motions concerning the order at hand are "in order." Example: The order of business is "Reading of bills and communications" a motion to defer action on the communications would be "in order" or a motion to pay the bills read would be "in order" but a motion to pay all outstanding bills would "not be in order" or a motion to take some definite action on one of the communications would "Not be in order" such as, — One of the communications is a letter inviting the group to participate in a civic project with only a tentative date mentioned; this should be referred to new business because at this point in the order of business it is not known what other business of prior importance might prevent the acceptance of the invitation. If a committee has been appointed to get tentative dates on which to hold a banquet or have a show, the dates might be the same as that of the civic affair but the assembly would not know it until the order of business "Reports of Special Committees" was reached. Many things might conflict if action other than "taking them up under new business" or "ordering them filed" or "deferring action" were permitted. Some motions are never "in order," such as a motion to present anything for

the second time at the same meeting after it has been defeated, however, if there is reason to believe that the motion was not understood when the vote on it was taken it would be "in order" to move the reconsideration of the lost motion. Any motion conflicting with a motion on the table or that has been referred to a committee is "not in order" until the subject is again before the assembly. Example: A motion to hold a picnic on Thursday, May 15th, has been tabled, — someone moves to attend a flower show in a body on May 15th, this motion would "not be in order." To accomplish this it would be necessary to move the picnic motion be taken from the table and when it is again before the assembly, move to amend it by substituting "attend a flower show" for "hold a picnic" and the vote would be taken on attending the flower show when the amendment was voted on. If the amendment was defeated, then the original motion of holding a picnic would come up for vote. A motion referred to a committee must be brought up by that committee and any motion contrary to or conflicting with it would "be out of order," but it may be amended when presented.

The simplest wording of motions is considered the best form in parliamentary circles. Every subject can be covered with the simple beginning of "I move that" or, "I move to." You move to adjourn or that some action be taken. Commonly used forms such as "I move you"; "I so move"; "I make a motion to"; and "I will make a motion that" are all considered poor forms. If copies of the motion are to be sent to authorities or individuals, they are usually presented in the form of a resolution. Simple resolutions begin with "I move the adoption of the following resolution; Resolved that we go on record as favoring a pay increase for Postal Employees with copies of this resolution being sent to our Congressmen and the postal organizations in our city. A more elaborate form of resolution gives the reasons for adopting it first and then the actual resolution such as: Wherefore, we believe postal employees should be paid amounts comparable with private industry and, Whereas, the only means of their obtaining a pay increase is by an act of Congress, therefore Be it resolved that we in convention assembled go on record as being in favor of H. R. 3648 and S. 243 which provide for an increase of \$400.00 per year for all Postal Employees. And be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to each of our Congressmen and Senators and like copies be sent to the Postal Organizations in our City." This type of resolution is used mostly in conventions and generally reported by a Resolutions Committee. When there are several resolutions to report they are numbered and all read before action is taken and when the last one is read the chairman says, "I move the adoption of these resolutions."

Rene' L. Edmundson, Parliamentarian.

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"Adorable Miniatures," the most Beautiful of the Large Standard Varieties.

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Shipping all winter and doubly guaranteed. We take great pains on our orders to Foreign Countries.

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WATSON - THE ANXIOUS SEEDLING

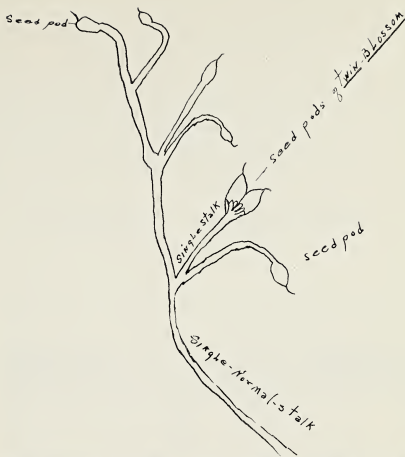
Mrs. Ted Lamach, Colville, Washington

Watson is the first of any seedlings I have tried to raise from seed. From a seed pod of it, I recently raised ninety-four, and now have two more plants that have Watson's odd characteristic of the twin flowers on one stem. These two seedlings have distinctly different foliage from Watson's, one has a dark blue blossom and the other has Watson's bicolor wine blossom.

The two recent seedlings are not as persistent in producing seed pods as Watson is. In spite of his bad habit of making seed pods, he has remained one of my favorite violets for the four years I have had him. He is a prolific bloomer, with usually at least eleven blossoms to a stem, and always one or two stems produce a set of twin blossoms. The foliage resembles Rippling Blue in waviness. Rippling Blue was one of his parent plants.

I have never been able to figure out exactly how he pollinates himself, as many of the single blossoms also make seed pods. I have to snatch each stem off as it completes its final bloom or I would have dozens of seed pods all over the plant. Therefore, I call him the ANXIOUS SEEDLING; anxious to keep me supplied with a lot of violet seeds that I do not want and could not possibly use.

From leaf starts and sucker plants of this original Watson I raised hundreds of new ones before getting a second plant having this odd blooming characteristic. Now I have two identi-



cal Watsons. With their rather oblong, wine bicolor blossoms, which seem to stay on the plant much longer than many singles do, I think they really make quite a showing.

THE END

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Wishing You A Very Merry Christmas
and
a Wonderful New Year!

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PROLIFIC VARIETIES AFRICAN VIOLETS

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OLD and NEW

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1958 CATALOG

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Sixty illustrated pages of newest African Violets and unusual and hard-to-find supplies, equipment and accessories. Everything you need for African Violets, Gloxinias, Geraniums, Azaleas, all greenhouse and indoor plants. Potting mixes and plant foods, large aluminum plant stands, fluorescent lights, etc. Largest selection any catalog specializing in African violet supplies and equipment for indoor plants and greenhouses. Send now for your free copy.

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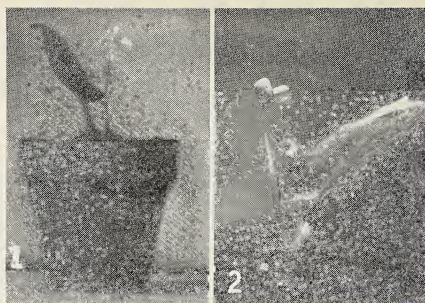
YULETIDE GREETINGS

To All Violet Growers
A Post Card From You to Me
Brings Our List by Return Mail

DOROTHY K. ATKINSON

1702 Grove Ave.

North Chicago, Ill.



1 — Mr. Latrille's leaf. 2 — Mrs. Haeseler's leaf.

FLOWERS BUT NO PLANTS

In April of last year Mrs. Kathleen Haeseler of Leadville, Colorado, planted a leaf of Lavender-Pink duPont. The leaf grew larger and larger, and finally in August a flower stem came up and had two flowers, but no baby plants appeared until in November.

Early this year Mr. John A. Latreille of Copper Cliff, Ontario, Canada, planted a leaf of Pink Delight. After four weeks a flower stem came up and produced one flower, but no baby plants appeared until several weeks later.

Experiences like these are what make the growing of leaves so fascinating. One never knows what to expect. There are leaves that produce just single plantlets, others that send up a dozen, and still others that produce flowers before they produce plants.

IMMUNITY

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The Horticultural Newsletter

Natives in the Orient drink unboiled water and eat uncooked vegetables without being attacked by amoebic dysentery, typhoid or cholera because they have built up a resistance or immunity to such germs and viruses. If you have never lived under tropical conditions don't try it or the results may be disastrous.

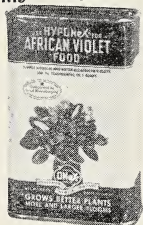
Louis XIV of France used to take arsenic because it gave him a peaches and cream complexion. He started with a small daily dose and worked up to a sizeable portion without ill effects.

In much the same manner INSECTS HAVE THE ABILITY TO BUILD UP RESISTANCE to poisons, to the bafflement of entomologists and the makers of pesticides. No one knows how much poison insects can take nor how many poisons they can resist. Every time we pat ourselves on the back because we think the latest chemical will finish bugs, we get a Bronx cheer from them instead.

HYPONEX[®] AFRICAN VIOLET FOOD

**BRINGS MORE BEAUTY & BLOOMS
TO ALL AFRICAN VIOLETS...**

Perfectly balanced for correctly feeding African Violets and other house plants. Simply dissolve in water and apply to root system of plants as directed. It quickly feeds every part of the plant without danger of over-stimulating. Commercial growers find it produces bigger, more vigorous plants, with more and larger blooms. Seedlings and cuttings rooted in sand or propagating media kept moist with HYPONEX solution grow quicker, stronger. Root shock is reduced when transplanting.



1 lb. pkg. makes 100 gals... Postpaid \$1.00
Larger quantities available. Write for prices.

THEONEX AFRICAN VIOLET BOOK

A new book by Esther C. Grayson fully illustrated from photographs by F. F. Rockwell gives a complete guide on the growing and culture of African Violets. It is also a reference book for listings of new varieties as to color, style of flower and names. Covers subject of propagation from cuttings and seeds as well as divisions.

AFRICAN VIOLET BOOK . . Postpaid \$1
Commercial Growers and Dealers are invited to write for price list and information on all products in the "ONEX" line.

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COPLEY, OHIO, U.S.A.

THE HOME OF KE-TONE ORGANIC PRODUCTS

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No order too small or too big.
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Treat your soil NATURE'S way

LETTER FROM ENGLAND

Lois Selby, Walkington, East Yorks., England

Ladies of America, greetings! I have been bitten by the same bug as you, and feel that we are indeed "sisters under our skin." I hereby beg admittance to your sisterhood.

Last September in a gardening paper we take weekly (very amateur gardeners, we!) I saw an advertisement for African violets. I had read of these fascinating little plants and resolved to go down to Nottingham to purchase one or two from the specialists in this country, W. C. Wicks, Ltd.

Well, I went — I saw — they conquered! I bought half a dozen for a start, gave one to a friend (who now by division has three nice plants from it), and settled down to worship. I pampered them, I spoiled them, and finally (according to my better-half) killed them by kindness. At least only two survived the winter. But — ah, but! — I had taken a dozen leaf cuttings, every one of which lived and thrived, having been rooted in water, and of course I am now their slave. I received an unbelievable amount of practical help and kindness from Mr. Wicks, up to then a total stranger, who finally crowned his efforts on my behalf by enrolling me as a member of the British Branch of your Society. I can never be sufficiently grateful to him for his encouragement and assistance.

Recently I went down again to replenish my stock, and then the fun really started. My husband had an indoor garden rigged with two two-foot fluorescent tubes, to fit on top of a bookcase in the lounge, but that only took a few plants in full bloom, whereas I had also obtained leaves and started no end of water cuttings. So I had the small strip-lights removed from over the working top in the kitchen and replaced by a five-foot tube, new trays of gravel, etc., and bang! went my prospects for a new winter coat! Alas for my electric mixer, liquidiser, etc. — they are sadly huddled together at one end of the bench, and life in the kitchen has really become rather complicated. But it is worth it, every bit, for, oh joy! — four of my very own "babies" rooted in water last October are now in full bloom, four more in bud, three more I think have buds, and the last is really too small as yet. I know that all of you who have been through this blissful experience yourselves will know the thrill this means. I stand over them twice a day, literally not figuratively, wearing my strongest glasses and brandishing a magnifying glass, searching for new buds. My husband, full of sarcasm, says it is a wonder I have not indulged in a microscope before now. However, I notice he frequently invites friends in "to see our Saintpaulias!" They are greater time-wasters than television. I find it extremely

soothing and eminently satisfying simply to stand and look at them; we used to keep tropical fish and they had much the same effect. As you may know, they (African violets, not fish) are still comparatively unknown in this country, but judging by the delighted interest shown in them even in my small circle, that unhappy state of affairs will be rapidly remedied.

And what grand breakers-of-ice they are. Nowadays upon a stranger entering the house there are delighted exclamations immediately and at once we are all friends together. One, to me, rather strange fact I should like to record in case anyone has had a similar experience. A friend had two plants, Georgia Peach and Purple Prince, which she keeps together and which flourished like the green bay tree until, without apparent reason, Purple Prince started to wilt. In spite of all she could do it continued to die until in desperation she decided to try desperate measures. She watered it from the top with almost boiling water 'till it was running over. It started to pick up immediately and is now putting out new buds and foliage. Is there a precedent for this, I wonder?

Now I must conclude this saga of one more joyous convert. Just one thing seriously worries me. We have violets in the lounge, violets in the kitchen, trays of leaf cuttings and a propagating tank in the guest room. Where shall we be this time next year? In the greenhouse?

THE END

HOLIDAY GREETINGS FROM RICHTERS

Our own "ten best" selections:

BON-BON — Lovely girl foliage with clusters of dainty double pink blooms. Semi-miniature.

CALIPH — Deep velvety red double.

CALUMET BEACON — Large variegated white and blue double.

CHARMIN — Deep pink, shaded to lilac, with distinct white eye.

CHERRY ICE — Beautiful "deeper than pink" color.

DAPHNE — Lovely full double pink, symmetrical foliage.

IRIS — Distinctive light blue crested bloom.

SPINDRIFT — Lovely pink single, will develop two flower stems per petiole.

VALOR — Deep glowing purple single, large blossom and lovely slick shiny foliage.

VANITY FAIR — Extra large pink single, excellent.

You may order direct from this ad, any of the above varieties in 2" pots @ \$1.00 each. Minimum order \$3.00, and please add 75¢ extra for postage and handling. Orders received during cold weather will be booked and shipped when weather permits. Complete price lists on request, rooted cuttings and plants. (Please specify wholesale or retail.)

RICHTER'S GREENHOUSE

607 Hoffman Street Hammond, Indiana

REGISTRATION REPORT . . .

Constance Hansen, Registrar, Box 302 Lafayette, California

It has been some time since the functions or mechanics of registration have been discussed, so there are probably many who would like to know how to go about registering a variety, and perhaps also something of the rules for registration. The Code of Rules for Nomenclature and Registration, and also the mimeographed instructions for registration and name reservation are sent by the registrar to those who request them.

Since one of the main functions of registration is to avoid duplication of names as far as possible, and also to provide a convenient source for authentic descriptions of the varieties in circulation, those who wish to register plants are urged to check through the official registration list issued yearly, starting this June, in the back of the Members' Handbook, before sending in their applications for registration. The list may be kept up to date during the year by adding the newly registered names as they appear in the magazine each quarter.

We all realize that with the hundreds of varieties being produced and distributed these days, the naming of them is becoming more and more difficult, but try to select names which are distinctive, descriptive, and easy to spell and pronounce wherever possible. Also consider the difficulty of writing long names on small labels.

Generally speaking, it will be the quality of the plant itself which determines for how many years it will continue to be grown and how widely it will be distributed. But given two varieties of equal value, it is the plant with the more attractive name which has the greater public appeal.

I would like to remind those who have sent in name reservations two or more years ago and have not followed through with renewal of the reservation or registration of the variety that these reservations are automatically dropped two years after their publication, and will be available for use by others.

The proceeds from the registration and reservation fees go into the fund set aside for research. Thus registration of your origination achieves the dual purpose of giving them official status, and making you a sponsor of the work which helps us all to make a better job of growing our favorite plant.

PART I

The following applications for registration have been received during the period from June 1, 1957, to September 1, 1957:

PLANT AND REGISTRANT

RED RAIDER (899) R3sS, WILD ROSA SUPREME (900) P4dS, BLACK BANNER (901) V5sS, 6/10/57, Mrs. Neva Frankson, 1 West Oak Hill, Jamestown, N. Y.

ROCK 'n' ROLL (902) V5sfS, GRAM'S FANCY (903) B5dfS, 6/25/57, Margaret Berggren, 1722 Boston Post Rd., Milford, Connecticut.

PINK GLAMOUR (904) P5sfS, 6/25/57, Mrs. Iva Mills, RFD #1, Van Buren Rd., Baldwinsville, N. Y.

FRATHEL'S MOST PRECIOUS (905) VO45dfS, FRATHEL'S MY ORCHID (906) 093dfL, 7/1/57, Mrs. J. Frathel, 252 Clay Ave., Rochester 3, N. Y.

PINK GENEVA (907) P4sM, MONACO PINK (908) P4dS, HELEN VAN PELT WILSON (909) P4sS, RED GLOW (910) R2sS, 8/10/57, Tinari Greenhouses, Bethayres, Penn.

BLUE COTILLION (923) BV5sL, 8/20/57, Dr. Thomas B. McKneely, 4427 — 17th St. N., Arlington, Virginia.

DENVER DOLL (924) V4sM, 8/20/57, June Riese, 2280 Birch St., Denver 7, Colorado.

The following names have the prefix CARAVAN:

C. ARABIAN NIGHT (911) V5sfL, C. AUTUMN BLAZE (912) B5sL, C. EMERALD RIPPLE (913) WB5sL, C. HEIRLOOM (914) V5sL, C. LIME LIGHT (915) V5sL, C. MASQUERADE (916) WB5sL, C. MASTERPIECE (917) WB5sL, C. NEW HORIZON (918) V5sL, C. PAGEANT (919) WB5sL, C. QUEEN (920) V5sL, C. SULTAN (921) V5sfL, 8/10/57, Mrs. John Buynak, 3871 W. 133 St., Cleveland 11, Ohio.

The following names have the prefix GRANGER GARDENS:

G.G. ANN RITLEDGE (924) BW4sS, G.G. BLUE NOCTURNE (925) B5dfS, G.G. CARA MIA (926) BW6dS, G.G. CHARITREUSE LACE (927) W2sfS, G.G. EMBER PINK (928) P2sS, G.G. PINK CARESS (929) P2sS, G.G. ROSALINDA (930) O4sfS, G.G. SANTA MARIA (931) R2sfS, G.G. THUNDERHEAD (932) W4sS, G.G. WHITE GODDESS (933) W4sfS, G.G. WHITE ORCHID (934) W2sfS, 8/25/57, Granger Gardens, R¹, Medina, Ohio.

Note: The latest official name for the species variously known as *Saintpaulia kewensis* and later *S. diplotracha* has been determined by the botanists to be *S. confusa*.

PART II

The following NAME RESERVATIONS have been received during this period:

Detroit Beauty
Ivory 'n' Jade
Cascade
Ruffled Fantasy

Miss Utah
Pink Romance
Corinthian
Gold Lace

White Gold
Snow Peak
Cotton Candy
Sweet Clover

Correction: the name reserved as "Gypsy" in the June list should read "Guppy".

In response to several requests for descriptions of newly registered varieties, the code description follows each name. The key for the code will be found in the section for registered varieties at the back of the Members' Handbook issued in June of this year.

THE END

AFRICAN VIOLETS, GLOXINIAS, AND THEIR RELATIVES

(Handbook of the Gesneriads)

By Harold E. Moore, Jr.

There is a growing public demand for such a book as Dr. Moore's as it gives a complete picture of the cultivation of this popular and fascinating family of plants. Containing 360 pages with 46 plates — five in color — it is certain to be both practical and helpful to home window gardeners and hobbyists as well as commercial growers. To many it will be essential.

More than 38 genera and 100 species are discussed in detail giving methods of propagation, cultivation and native habitats.

The chapters are as follows:

Part I — Growing Gesneriads

- 1 Gesneriads at Home
- 2 Gesneriads Under Culture
- 3 Propagation
- 4 Pests and Diseases
- 5 Hybrids, Mutants and Hybridization

Part II — Kinds of Gesneriads

- 6 Introduction
- 7 Gesneriads with Tubers
- 8 Gesneriads with Scaly Rhizomes
- 9 Gesneriads with Two Stamens
- 10 Gesneriads with Glands
- 11 European and Asiatic Gesneriads
- 12 Some Miscellaneous Gesneriads

The author is Assistant to the Director of the Bailey Hortorium, Assistant Professor of Botany at Cornell University and an acknowledged authority on Gesneriads. Published by the Macmillan Company the cost is \$10.00.

THE END

African Violets

While visiting our beautiful Washington, be sure to stop in at Behnke's. We are located directly on the Washington-Baltimore Boulevard in Beltsville. You can't miss it. We would be delighted to have you browse around and we are sure you will find it well worth your while.

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THE MOST BEAUTIFUL RED CLAY FLOWER POTS MADE

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3	in. 14 for \$2.20
4	in. 10 for 2.20
5	in. 6 for 2.20
6	in. 4 for 2.20

Semi-squatty

3	in. 14 for \$2.20
5	in. 6 for 2.20
5½	in. 5 for 2.20
6	in. 4 for 2.20

Standard

1½	in. 40 for \$2.20
1¾	in. 36 for 2.20
2	in. 30 for 2.20
2½	in. 24 for 2.20
2½	in. 18 for 2.20
3	in. 14 for 2.20
4	in. 9 for 2.20

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4" 10 for \$1.85
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Made especially for African Violets with flaky leaf-mold (mostly oak) plus woodland top-soil, crushed sandstone, peat moss, woodashes, bone meal, superphosphate and charcoal. Will rot pack. Sterilized with LARVACIDE to eliminate nematodes and other soil-borne troubles. Write for prices on larger quantities.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

Alma Wright and Mary Parker

WHY I LOVE AFRICAN VIOLETS

Mrs. K. C. Gustafson, Chattanooga, Tennessee

The gift of a green thumb came naturally from my mother, who grew flowers of every variety for years.

About ten years ago a friend gave her an Ionantha African violet plant. Rarely have I seen an African violet that looked more like a lady's Easter bonnet, for the plant was a multi-crown. To be exact, two years later when we performed an operation on the over grown potfull, there were fourteen plants. Then mother was really in the African violet business. But the so-called "bug" did not bite me until some time later when I went to a grower and bought three plants. Norseman and Mentor Boy soon put on a real show.

Now those names are varieties of the past, but I am old fashioned enough to believe they were much heavier bloomers than a great many newer varieties, though I love the frills of the Pink Fringette, and the beautiful doubles too numerous to mention.

Why do I love African violets? The reasons are many. There are few flowers that bloom more consistently over a long period of time. A variety of plants means that some are blooming every month of the year. And what an array of color they make in your room! I have always enjoyed using them in table decorations; a small violet will fit into almost any seasonable display of dried or fresh material. Everyone can enjoy your violet when you take it to church on Sunday morning and use it in a Worship center. Violets make a wonderful gift for shut-ins, or for any friend to whom you want to give a disease — that of growing violets.

I do not and can not keep up with all new varieties. I find it fun to keep a favorite, an old scraggly plant, by chopping it off at the soil level and re-rooting it.

There is a certain challenge in growing African violets. Sometimes a plant that is thriving very suddenly develops crown rot, maybe from too much water, maybe for no good reason at all. Sometimes the plant can be saved, other times not.

Of course every grower should have an incubator for leaves, baby plants, or growing suckers.

As our Mrs. Miller once said, "You'll find your violets will grow and bloom more bountifully if you say 'good-night' to them." Sometimes it is at that late hour when mine get a drink, but I love them just the same.

I love the association with our Society members. Do you know of any other club where the members share their hobby more completely at monthly meetings?

THE END



Club NEWS

MAXINE WANGBERG

14½ N. Central Ave., Harlowton, Montana

Deadline dates for Club News contributions: For September issue, June 1st; for December, September 1st; for March, December 1st; for June, March 1st.

The **RICHMOND AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA**, held its annual luncheon at the Hermitage Country Club on Wednesday May 1, 1957. The following officers were elected and installed: president, Mrs. George Ross; first vice-president, Mrs. D. A. Branch; second vice-president, Mrs. G. A. Phillips; recording secretary, Mrs. Elliott Clark; corresponding secretary, Mrs. E. R. Robinson; treasurer, Mrs. K. D. Angus. Officers were installed by Mrs. Hansford H. Rowe.

The club has enjoyed a wonderful year. Several educational programs have been put on especially interesting to the new members, and progress was made in our civic work. On March eleventh the club visited the National Capital Flower & Garden Show in Washington, D. C. May 23rd found the members at the Jamestown Festival, Jamestown, Virginia.

The **EVENING SAINTPAULIA VIOLET CLUB, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**, elected the following new officers: president, Mrs. Drester A. Monson; vice-president, Mrs. G. W. Robbins; treasurer, Mrs. Ray Miller; secretary, Mrs. Lloyd Lamm.

The **AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF SPRINGFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA**, met for its annual June luncheon and installation of officers in Wawa at the Wild Goose Inn. The tables were beautifully decorated by the hospitality committee, composed of Mrs. Wm. Wrigley, Mrs. Victor Turner, and Mrs. Lee Cantrell. At each place was a new variety of African violet plant as a gift from the retiring president, Mrs. Cantrell.

The results of the year's plant judging were read with Mrs. Leonard Becker receiving the most points. Mrs. Ralph Frye and Mrs. Carlos Rios tied for second. Each was awarded a gift from the club.

The new officers elected and installed were: president, Mrs. John Ricker; vice-president, Mrs. Wm. Zachow; recording secretary, Mrs. Earl Fisher; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Robert Carll; treasurer, Mrs. Leonard Becker. Following her installation, Mrs. Ricker presented Mrs. Cantrell with a pin of the National Society. Engraved on the pin were the name of the Chapter and the date of Mrs. Cantrell's tenure of office. Mrs. Ricker then announced the names of her committee heads for the coming year.

Following the business meeting, the members and their guests were entertained by vocal solos by Mrs. Earl Fisher accompanied by Mrs. C. W. Driver.

The **FANTASY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB OF BUFFALO, MINNESOTA**, held election of officers at its meeting on July 15, 1957. The following were elected to office: president, Mrs. Jake Kettner; vice-president, Mrs. Raymond Petersen; secretary, Mrs. Earl C. Petersen; treasurer, Mrs. Jack Lavine.

The club has been under the excellent guidance and leadership of Mrs. George Dupont, the outgoing president.

A very beautiful and successful violet show was held in June in the Cafetorium of the Buffalo High School, proceeds to be used for the Hospital Expansion Program. The Hospital Auxiliary served a light lunch at the show.

The **SUNSHINE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF DENVER, COLORADO**, was organized recently with the following officers elected for the coming year: president, Mrs. Lady Cook; vice-president, Mrs. Olive Simpson; secretary, Mrs. Ethel Middleton; treasurer, Mrs. Ruth Svec.

The **EVANSTON SAINTPAULIA CLUB OF EVANSTON, ILLINOIS**, held its annual meeting and installation of two officers on June 18, 1957. Mrs. Kenneth Reeling became first vice-president and Mrs. Ted Leitzell, secretary.

The **SUBURBAN SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS**, held the election of officers at the home of Mrs. W. Weber, Arlington Heights, on April 10, 1957. The following were elected for the coming year: president, Mrs. L. Poduska; vice president, Mrs. I. Linehan; secretary, Mrs. C. Paeglow; treasurer, Mrs. W. Damm, Jr.

The planning board met on May 9, 1957, at the Arlington House for a luncheon as guests of the newly elected president, Mrs. L. Poduska. Plans for the coming year were discussed.

The installation of officers was held June 11, 1957, at the home of Mrs. M. Demet, Prospect Heights. The past president, Mrs. E. O. Moss, Arlington Heights, was presented with a gold African violet past president pin and a resolution. This was printed on parchment and drawn up by Mrs. H. Miller of Palatine, a member of the club, thanking her for past work on behalf of the club.

The SIOUXLAND AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, SIOUX CITY, IOWA, elected the following new officers for the coming year: president, Mrs. Bruce Bellows; vice-president, Mrs. Homer Bradshaw; secretary, Mrs. Wayne Schlosser; treasurer, Mrs. Norman Slothower.

The AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF MUSCLE SHOALS, ALABAMA, held its May meeting at the home of Mrs. Hugh Wasson, Tuscumbia, Alabama, on May 28, 1957.

The following officers for the new year, June 1957 to May 1958, were installed: president, Mrs. Almon T. Kennedy; first vice-president, Mrs. V. E. Lund; second vice-president, Mrs. D. T. Wilcoxson; corresponding secretary, Mrs. W. F. Parks; secretary, Mrs. L. H. Almond; treasurer, Mrs. Albert Whitten.

In appreciation of splendid work and leadership, the club presented a lovely gift of china to Mrs. J. T. Darby, retiring president.

The TOWN & COUNTRY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, HOUSTON, TEXAS, re-elected the following officers: president, Mrs. Grace T. Grissom; secretary, Mrs. Vivian Draper; treasurer, Miss Janice Rohatsch. Mrs. David W. Kennedy was elected vice-president. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month in the homes of the members.

The PORTLAND AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, PORTLAND, OREGON, elected the following officers at its May meeting: president, Mr. L. W. Hendershott; first vice-president, Mrs. T. Fenolio;

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second vice-president, Mrs. H. F. Beauchamp; secretary, Mrs. Harold Hillwertz; treasurer, Miss Gretchen Boothroyd.

Meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month in the Oregon Journal Building. Programs for the past year have included six special classes on raising African violets conducted by Mrs. Harry Arndt, past club president. These were well attended.

At the June meeting of the **AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF SEATTLE, WASHINGTON**, the following officers for the coming year were elected and installed: president, Mrs. F. R. Hager; first vice-president, Mrs. Artis Baylor; second vice-president, Mrs. Beverly Whaley; secretary, Miss Helen Blackman; treasurer, Mr. Bernard Carter.

The **SALEM AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, SALEM, OREGON**, meets the third Thursday of each month at the homes of the members. In this way we get to see each member's plants, her method of growing violets, and often get new ideas for raising our own plants.

In December we held a Christmas party with an exchange of gifts and two of the members of the club presented each member with an African violet.

In May we had a pot luck dinner open to any one interested in African violets. The members brought violets and arrangements for a show, and we had a miscellaneous plant sale. One of the members showed beautiful colored slides of the 1956 National Violet Convention, and a guest showed pictures taken on a trip to Mexico.

At our meetings we usually discuss some phase of African violet culture. Our roll call of members provides interest, as each month the members tell something about violets. This encourages member participation.

Our new club officers for 1957-1958 are: president, Mrs. Bert Hulst; vice-president, Mrs. Ralph Evans; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Arthur Hoenig.

The **BOOT HILL SAINTPAULIA CLUB, DODGE CITY, KANSAS**, elected the following officers for the coming year: president, Mrs. C. L. Denning; vice-president, Mrs. W. Z. Hamilton; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. S. E. Freeland.

The April meeting featured a guest night and plant exchange, and the June meeting was a family picnic.

Sponsored by the **REGIONAL COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETIES**, a school to teach exhibitors and judges and an examination to qualify for judges certificates was held in Vallejo, California, on March 9, 1957. The teacher was Mrs. Constance Hansen; local chairman, Mrs. Lillian Bragg; co-chairman, Mrs. Millie E. Blair.

Fifteen judges certificates were awarded by the national chairman, Mrs. Ruth Carey, of the African Violet Society of America, Inc.

Beautiful displays by Edena Gardens of Walnut Creek, Orchard Nursery of Lafayette, Tropical Gardens of Stockton, Violet Village of Napa, Reynolds Gardens of Sebastopol, and Mr. E. Hammond of Irvington, and exhibits by regional council clubs formed a background for congenial conversation and friendly discussions during the three hour recess. Commercial display chairman was Mrs. Pearl Thomas.

Many old friends met once again, many new friendships were formed, and many who knew each other only through the exchange of letters met for the first time.

Mrs. Florence Shirley was plant sale chairman. A plant table with an abundance of new varieties helped make the day more interesting and financially a complete success.

1—Members of the Country Side African Violet Club admire plants to be given patients at the Veterans Hospital. Seated, Mrs. Robert Jennings, Miss Adeline Lyster, Mrs. Forrest Iler, Mrs. C. A. Bishop. Standing, Mrs. Paul Tenney, Mrs. M. E. Gribble, Mrs. A. J. Shafer and Mrs. Earl Landphier.

2—Mrs. Harold Knapper (center) demonstrates the use of violets in flower arrangements to members of Washington, Pennsylvania Society, Mrs. Faye Eakin and Mrs. Robert Engle.



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Bunker Hill, Indiana

See our extensive line of plants for every need in the home or greenhouse this winter. Open for your convenience every day. Located 1 mile west of McGrawsville. No plants shipped from November through March. Free List. Sodium selenate 50¢ V-C 13 \$2.95 prepaid.

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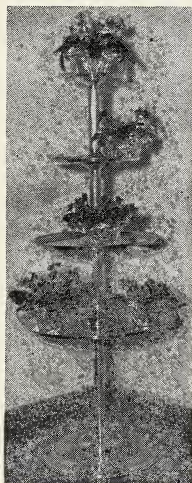
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Bud's Kimberly, Mardi Gras, Pink Fog,
Debbie, T.V. Series.

Send stamp for list, Canada only. Orders received before February 15 will be rooted in medium. Leaves only mailed. Beautiful gift plants \$1.00 at Greenhouse.

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● All Shining
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● Hold up to 18
four-inch
flower pots—
yet require only
20-inch diameter
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36-inch height \$22⁵⁰
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48-inch height 25⁵⁰

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EACH TRAY ROTATES
FREELY about center
for even sunning of
plants . . . Trays are
waterproof and hold
up to 1/2 inch of water
Plants can be watered the ideal way
— from the bottom —
without individual watering.

Ceramo African Violet
FLOWER POTS

10 3-inch pots . . . \$1.80
8 4-inch pots . . . 2.00
6 5-inch pots . . . 2.20

Sent postpaid. Add 25¢ set
postage west of Rockies.

These famous Squatty Pots, of
dark red clay, with their excel-
lent porosity, are used and
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Specially treated edges help
prevent sloughing off of leaves.
all broken pots. Order today.



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Jackson, Missouri

ADDENDUM ON GIBBERELIC ACID

Geraldine D. Coleman, Beverly Hills, California

During this long, very warm summer my experi-
mental plants have faltered by the wayside
until there are many less than one-half my
original number left. On many of the plants the
petioles assumed a flattened, concertina-like
effect along most of their whole length, as though
they had just collapsed in on themselves. The
leaves, small and light as they were, seemed
too heavy and would break off these stems. In
many cases the central stem also became
"dented" in almost the same manner, finally
falling over onto the soil as if it too could not
carry the weight.

Of the plants left, some have finally bloomed.
The plants sprayed with 100 p.p.m. sol: and under
fluorescent light succeeded in setting bud and
producing some bloom. Entirely inadequate and
disappointing, for the blooms were small and of
a muddy color. Most were singles and ran to
four petal flowers with no more than three on
a spathe. Two were doubles but did not develop
into full doubles — they were semi-double and
rather misshapen. However the blooms (?)
stayed on a much longer time than usual and
were carried on longer flower stalks. Of the
others, some developed the flowerbuds, but by the
time the stalk had grown out from amongst the
leaves, it was seen that they each had empty
calices, in each case with two long narrow leaves
one on each side of the calyx.

So, for me, Gibberellic acid has not proved the
blossom stimulant I had hoped for in its present
stage of development.

THE END

ASK FOR: SMITH'S PLANTER MIX



at your favorite
Variety, Grocery, Seed or Hard-
ware Store. If not available
ORDER DIRECT
4 quarts \$1.00
POSTPAID

ATTENTION: Club Presidents
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SMITH POTTING SOIL CO.
2513 E. 19th St. Tulsa, Okla.

PATENTED AFRICAN VIOLETS

Numerous requests are received each year for a list of patented plants, and while the number of plants that is patented is small, if these plants are offered commercially for sale, it is necessary to secure a proper patent label.

Therefore, for the convenience of the members who desire this information, the following list has been compiled. Patented plants may not be sold until the proper permission is secured from the plant patent owner.

PINK BEAUTY. Holton and Hunkel Company, 797 N. Milwaukee, Milwaukee 1, Wisconsin. Plant Patent Number 514, issued May 5, 1942.

BLUE GIRL. Ulery Greenhouses, 1325 Maiden Lane, Springfield, Ohio. Plant Patent Number 535, issued July 28, 1942.

WHITE LADY. Fred C. Gloeckner & Company, Inc., 15 East 26th Street, New York 10, New York. Plant Patent Number 597, issued Aug. 1, 1943.

PINK GIRL. R. G. Baxter, Route 1, New Waterford, Ohio. Plant Patent Number 769, issued Dec. 16, 1947. This patent has been released.

GORGEOUS. R. G. Baxter, Route 1, New Waterford, Ohio. Plant Patent Number 770, issued Dec. 16, 1947. This patent has been released.

LADY GENEVA. Geneva and Sunnysdale Nurseries, 250 Schwerin Street, San Francisco 24, California. Plant Patent Number 1077, issued March 11, 1952.

STAR SAPPHIRE. Robert Craig Company, Box 37, Norwood, Delaware County, Pennsylvania. Plant Patent Number 1187, issued May 12, 1953.

PINK WONDER. Ulery Greenhouses, 1325 Maiden Lane, Springfield, Ohio. Plant Patent Number 1214, issued May 22, 1953.

DOUBLE GENEVAS: Silver Lining, Snow Line, Moon Ripples. Fischer's Greenhouses, Linwood, New Jersey. Plant Patent Number 1173, issued March 10, 1953.

THE END

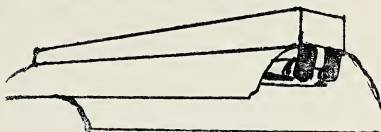
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(Equal to about 240 W. of regular bulbs)

Size: 48" long, 13" wide

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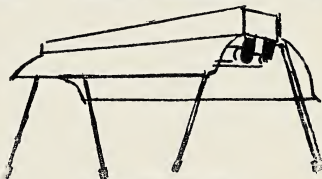
36" rubber cord and pull-switch, Underwriters approved.

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CREAM OF THE CROP AT \$1.00 PER CUTTING

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MARK ROBERT — Huge white fused with blue, star type flower held sturdily above the foliage, medium sized plant.

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LINGO — Very lovely dark wavy modern type foliage. Large frilled bright lavender double flower.

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LOVELY — As the name implies, white star fused with pink.

MY SIN — Very striking bright shade of pink, semi-double star.

TILLIE — Lavender star, vigorous with attractive foliage.

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SPIC — Star double blue, clear medium blue symmetrical double flower, very free blooming.

SPAN — A perfect mate for Spic, medium pink full star, double, very free blooming.

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VAGABOND — Similar to Lingo, beautiful single frilled lavender flowers, ruffled red reverse modern type foliage.

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Visitors always welcome.

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a sparkling new variety that is a **MUST**
for every collector

SPOTLIGHT . . completely different, completely outstanding. Single pink flowers have a deep rose red center that sets the variety apart from anything you have ever seen. The variety just naturally stands out. "Spotlight" with its brilliant rose red center will be the focus of attention in every collection.

SEVERAL OTHER FINE NEW INTRODUCTIONS FOR 1958

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"Ocean Spray", "Sea Spray" and "Sea Foam" names from the seashore for these sprightly introductions.

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to our many, many friends in the
African Violet Society.

\$1.00 1958

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Certificate



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our green-
houses or
through the
mail, with any
purchase of
\$6 or more.

These and other fine varieties pictured in our new '58 folder, ready in January. Write for your free copy. (Customers or record will automatically receive their copy in our first mailing).

Fischer . . *Greenhouses*

Dept. V. M.

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African Violet Seed — Approximately 300 seeds to a package. Directions for sowing with every package. Crosses made with good standard varieties. Pkg. \$1.75 P. Pd. Special Hybrid Crosses Pkt. \$3.50 P. Pd.

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2 1/4 in. Plastic Pots. 25 for \$1.25 Postpaid
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3 in. Squatty Tubs. 12 for \$1.50 Postpaid
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25 CUP VIOLETREE

VIOLETREE — DELIGHTFUL CHRISTMAS OR HOLIDAY GIFT FOR VIOLET AND PLANT HOBBYISTS! Now you can own an artistically designed "Violetree" to hold your choice plants in neat, space-saving order. Sturdy steel construction 56 1/2" tall — 25" in circumference. Well balanced neatly finished legs with rubber tips. Arms revolve and can be placed at any angle. The holders are cups 3 1/2" wide x 1 1/2" deep of heavy durable black plastic, which will not leak. Suitable to hold 2" or 3" pots and 4" standard size. Plastic cups can be removed for easy cleaning.

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MIDGET VIOLETREE ARTISTICALLY FASHIONED FOR WINDOWSILL, TABLE OR CENTERPIECE. Holds nine plants, measures 17" tall 14" in circumference. Cups held in proportion to stand 2 3/4" by 1 1/4" deep to hold 2" or 3" pots, without the necessity of saucers. Rubber tipped balanced legs. An ideal gift for the violet hobbyist. In antique black or silver color finish \$9.95 each P. Pd.

CERAMIC STRAWBERRY JAR — Handmade ceramic in six sparkling colors. Mottled colors blended in shades of tan, blue, green, gray, solid black or sparkling white. Suitable space for four violets. Proper drainage hole in bottom. 5 1/2" high and approximately 5 3/4" in circumference. \$2.65 each Postpaid.



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African Violet

MAGAZINE

MARCH 1958

VOLUME 11 NUMBER 3



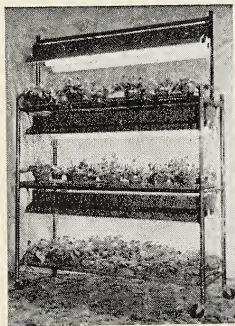
HERE IS THE BOOK YOU HAVE BEEN READING ABOUT IN YOUR NEWSPAPERS FROM COAST TO COAST NEWS *GARDENING INDOORS UNDER LIGHTS*

CORRECT COMBINATION of incandescent and fluorescent lights has revolutionized indoor gardening, say Frederick and Jacqueline Kranz in their recently published book, **Gardening Indoors Under Lights**. It is described by its publishers, The Viking Press, as the first definitive handbook on one of the most fascinating and rapidly growing of contemporary hobbies.

The authors devoted years to carefully controlled and recorded experiments in their

own home in growing flowers, both annual and perennial, starting vegetable seedlings, and rooting shrub and tree cuttings indoors under artificial lighting. The Kranzes' book gives complete directions on providing proper soil, planting, cultivating, fertilizing, watering, and propagation. It tells a beginner how to make his own equipment or where to buy it. The clear illustrations and step-by-step drawings help make this a fascinating book for almost every home.

A must for African Violets. Price \$4.95 Post Paid. Send orders direct to FLORALITE COMPANY.

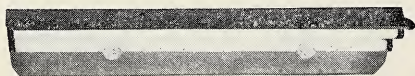


Florelite Kart. A small attractive indoor Green house. It has four removable 12 x 18 aluminum trays on each tier which can be taken out and put on table or sink so you can work on your plants with ease for spraying, etc. Fluorescent lights can be added at any time. Controlled lighting assured with Timer. The Florelite Kart is the finest and most durable made. Stronger and neater than others. Finished in baked on grey metallic enamel, will not tarnish. Large easy rolling rubber ball bearing casters. 50 in. high, 50 in. long, 18 in. wide. 40 lbs. \$51.50 FOB. Also complete with 3 fixtures, 13 in. reflectors, cord, plug, top bracket, hangers and 6 — 40 watt G. E. Tubes \$92.50 FOB. With Dualite fixtures \$98.50 FOB. So. Milwaukee. Weight 100 lbs. With top bracket 70 in. high.



Just set and forget. Your lights will go on and off automatically. No more light worries. \$10.00 Postage Paid.

YOU'LL LIKE OUR Heavy Duty 48" Grey Baked Enamel Fluorescent Light Fixture. Big 13" white baked enameled reflector with cord, plug and two 40 watt cool white G. E. Tubes. \$11.50 plus \$2.50 postage & packing. 2 year guarantee on ballast.



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NEW STARLITE GARDEN LAMP is the most beautiful and useful lamp made. The perforated steel shade filters the light into your room. Rubber tipped legs will not mar or slip. 33 in. long, 14 in. wide and 18 in. high. Will accommodate 32 or more plants. Black Wrought Iron with white reflector with cord, plug, switch and 2 tubes. \$22.50 Post Paid.

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African Violet Magazine



A Quarterly Publication

C O N T E N T S

Vol. 11

March 1958

No. 3

Front Cover: Pink Cloud, Dark Eyed Dream, and White Goddess
from the collection of Helen Montgomery.

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Williamsburg is a veritable fairyland in Spring, a sight which should not be missed by any lover of flowers. We extend a cordial invitation to visit our beautifully decorated shop and greenhouse with its breathtaking array of African Violets in bloom.

We grow over 250 varieties which we sell in 3 sizes from our greenhouses and ship 100 varieties of rooted cuttings by Air Parcel Post. Send for our folder.

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Intersection Highways 162 & 168

Williamsburg, Va.

Mr. and Mrs. Leo A. Keilocker

Capital 9-1728

Quality Is Our First Concern

1957 TALLY OF AMERICAN AFRICAN VIOLET SELECTIONS (A.A.V.S.)

Daisy Jones, Memphis, Tennessee

This is our fifth consecutive yearly tally of our beloved "pets", the African violets.

Information coming in from presidents of local clubs who are Affiliated with the National Society show that there were not as many individual shows or displays during 1957 as in previous years. In many instances several clubs joined together in putting on a large and outstandingly beautiful show, and some clubs had African violet displays at Horticulture Shows which included other flowers.

Following is a list of "top" winners for the Tally:

BEST IN SHOW

1. Navy Bouquet
2. Ohio Bountiful
3. Wintergreen
4. Pink Neptune
5. Georgia Peach

NATIONAL GOLD RIBBON

1. Snow Prince
2. Navy Bouquet
3. White Pride
4. T. V. Summer Cloud
5. T. V. Stagline

NATIONAL PURPLE RIBBON

1. Pink Cheer
2. Ruffled Queen
3. Snow Prince
4. Ohio Bountiful
5. Wine Velvet

Although there were many single blossom plants which won blue ribbons, the double varieties are still maintaining the "top" honors and I think we will all admit that Navy Bouquet is hard to beat in competition. It will always walk away with a "BEST in Show." The double pinks are still coming along with high honors and the T-V series is making violet lovers put them on their "most wanted" list.

Perhaps you have thought . . . Why should we have an A.A.V.S. Tally? The answer is simple — most of us want to know which varieties are winning top honors in all sections of the country. It makes us search for and secure these particular African violets that have won the highest number of points in competition with other varieties. We will admit that every variety is b-e-a-u-tiful in its own particular way and that there is no such thing as an "ugly African violet."

Perhaps the future holds untold thrills in the development of many new varieties, but let us spend many happy hours today and tomorrow with our violets, sharing them with shut-ins, hospital patients, our friends and close neighbors. They help to break down the barriers of cold-reserve and bring about a happy warm-hearted friendliness toward our fellow man. end

THE HOUSE OF VIOLETS

BLANCO

TEXAS

— presents —

Four New Vallin Beauties For 1958

DOUBLE GREEN BEADS

The most outstanding and exotic of Vallin originations. A deep double pink with a fringed chartreuse edging that stays the life of the blossom and looks like tiny green beads. Very lovely medium green, rippling foliage to compliment the green edging of blossoms. A plant every violet grower should have. \$2.00 each.

PINK FIRE

An exquisite, brilliant, very deep full double rose pink, frilled carnation type blossom. The rippling, flaring leaves are a very dark green on top with a reddish cast caused by the deep red of the undersides and petioles. Makes a lovely medium sized plant with loads of bloom. Small plants only. \$1.50 each.

PINK SNOWBALL

A beautiful sight in bloom with its double white and pink round petalled blooms that look like small camellias. Medium green, plain foliage that makes a good flat symmetrical plant. Extra nice. \$1.75 each.

POTPOURRI

Another exotic double ruffled white streaked lavender and purple. Each blossom is different but all open with the chartreuse edging. Light apple green foliage that is fluted around the edges. Makes a beautiful flat outstanding show plant admired by all who see it here. \$1.75 each.

ALL FOUR—in pots they are grown in—\$6.50 Ppd. Orders under \$5.00, add 50¢ postage. Special delivery add 50¢.

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NEWEST STARS

REDDEST RED

PINKEST PINK

DARKEST FOLIAGE

— OPEN DAILY AND SUNDAYS —

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SPRINGDALE, ARKANSAS

PLANTS \$1.00 and \$1.50; Leaf Settings 75¢; Cut Leaf 50¢.

AFRICAN GUARDSMAN fril. purple
BERNICE AMAZON huge dbl. lt. b.
CLARISSA HARRIS frilled pink
CANDY GIRL single pink-white
CUP OF CLARET huge single red

DRESDEN DREAM fril. pink
FIRST KISS dbl. pink-white
FRINGED POM POM fril. dbl.
HOLIDAY AMAZON big cerise
ORIENTAL AMAZON spooned

OHIO BOUNTIFUL AMAZON
PINK MIRACLE fril. pink
PURPLE RAJAH dbl. purple
T-V SEVEN VEILS gorgeous
single purple tones

VARIETIES BELOW: Cut Leaf 40¢; Leaf Setting only when marked S 60¢ Plants 75¢ and \$1.00

except starred varieties \$1.00 plants only

Small 60¢ size plants in some of these, but second choice MUST be named

No leaf-setting offered unless there is an S before variety.

Please name Second Choices.

DOUBLE PINK:

S- Apricot Mist
S- Camellia (Lyons)
S- Cherry Pink
*Double Hoosier
S- *Dbl. Peach Blossom
S- Double Pink Boy
S- Double Pink Cheer
S- Double Pink Girl
S- Double Pink Sister
S- Dbl. Portland Rose
S- Evelyn Johnson
S- Fril. Pink Rosette
S- Giant Killer
S- Gisele
S- Glamour
S- Grand Champion
S- Holiday
S- Lovely Lady
S- Mad Hat
S- Mamselle
S- Minnesota
S- *Ohio Bountiful
S- Picadilly
S- Pink Babysbreath
S- Pk Camellia (Tonk)
S- *Pink Cloud
S- Pink Cloud Amazon
S- Pink Cupid (Buds)
S- Pink Lagoon
S- *Pink Mambo
S- Pk Petticoats (Buds)
S- Pink Rock
S- Pink Tally-Ho
S- Pink Vendetta
S- Pink Waltz (Buds)
S- *Strike-Me-Pink (Bud)
S- Sweet Memories

SINGLE WHITE:

*Innocence
June Bride
*Show Man
S- Snow Prince
S- Thunderhead
S- White Orchid

DOUBLE WHITE:

Blushing
S- Blushing Amazon
S- Double Polar Ice
S- Frosted Madonna
S- Gardenia
S- Snow Fairy
S- Sweet Sixteen
S- White Gold
S- White Pride
S- White Puff

SINGLE WHITE, marked

S- Amazilia
S- Angel Lace
S- Daisy Mae
S- Lilac Ballet
S- Noney
S- Red-Edge Wh. Boy
S- Roseglow
S- *Rose Sparkle
S- Rosewing
S- Ruffled Bi
S- Show Day
S- Twinkle Toes
S- T-V Beaumont Bty
S- T-V Rosefroth
S- T-V Spring Finery

DOUBLE WHITE, marked

S- Dbl. Painted Girl
S- Fairy Queen
S- Sea Sprite
S- Show Aristocrat
S- Show Cloud
S- Smoke Rings
S- T-V Impudence
S- T-V Mambo
S- T-V Pearl
S- T-V Rosy Snostorm
S- T-V Whispers
*Wintergreen

SINGLE LAV.-ORCHID:

Kansas City Girl
S- Ruffled Queen
S- *Tenn. Debutante

DOUBLE LAV.-ORCHID:

S- Grace Pope
S- Meteor
S- Rosalind
*Show Sensation

SINGLE "RED"-ORCHID:

S- *Bonfire (bicolor)
S- Bronzetta
S- *DuPont Red
S- High Noon
S- Indian Squaw
S- Red Cap
S- *Royal Velvet
S- (Velvet Girl Sup)
S- Tinker Bell
S- *Velvet Girl (bi)
S- *Wiff
S- Wine Velvet
S- T-V Bunchop
S- T-V Rose Frills
S- T-V Rose Prom
S- T-V Texas Goliath

DOUBLE "RED"-ORCHID:

Akron Girl
S- Beau Brummel
S- *Black Cherry
S- *Caliph
S- Dbl. Orch. Prince
S- *Dbl Wine Velv Grl
S- *Drops O'Wine
S- Elizabeth Queen
S- Falstaff
S- Grenadier
S- King Richard
S- Longfolia Dbl Red
S- Lorna Doone
S- Miroc
S- *Queen's Cushion
S- Rainbows End
S- *Sheer Delight
S- *Snow Glow
S- T-V Chaperone
S- T-V Cut Velvet
S- *Will Hayes
S- Wintery Rose

SINGLE LAV., VIOLET

S- Boyce Edens (bi)
S- College Girl (bi)
S- Fantasy Trail (bi)
S- Lady Elaine (bi)
S- Lavender Beauty
S- *Lav. Bty Supreme
S- *Lilac Frills
S- Lilac Time
S- *Violet Dogwood Sup
S- T-V Flirty Eyes

DOUBLE LAV., VIOLET:

S- Laura
S- Lavender Air Waves
S- Lavender Bigwig
S- Lavender Lace (bi)
S- Lavender Sachet
S- Mary Thompson
S- Miss New York
S- Old South
S- Spun Sugar
S- T-V Summer Dream

SINGLE LIGHT BLUE:

S- Blue Lady
S- Christina
S- Holly Halo
S- *Sea Nymph (Min.)
S- Waverly

DOUBLE LIGHT BLUE:

S- Bernice
S- Blue Nocturne
S- Dbl Blue Heiress
S- Double Blue Ice
S- Dolly's Dream
S- Fluffy Blue
S- Seafoth
S- Show Sky
S- T-V Bubbles

SINGLE MEDIUM BLUE:

S- Bridalwreath Amazon
S- Great Lakes

DOUBLE MEDIUM BLUE:

S- Blue Peak
S- Blue Rosette
S- Goliath
S- Irish Frolic
S- Swank
S- T-V Summer Cloud

SINGLE DK. BLUE-

PURPLE:

S- Big Parade
S- *Dark Secret
S- Finlandia
S- Giant Purple Monarch
S- Harvey (for foliage)
S- Hi-Lea Purple Amazon
S- Midnight DuPont
S- Rose's Pippin
S- Ruffled Heiress
S- Sequoia
S- Star Blue
S- T-V Handsome
S- T-V Scandal
S- T-V Swirling Petticoats
S- T-V Tea Time
S- *Valor

DOUBLE DK. BLUE-

PURPLE

S- Autumn
S- Black Canasta
S- Black Magic
S- Brussels Sprouts
S- Cavalier
S- Cydonia
S- Double One Amazon
S- Longfolia Dbl Blue
S- Mayfair
S- Navy Bouquet Amazon
S- *Newport
S- Royal Bouquet
S- Shadrach
S- St. Louis
S- T-V Jazz
S- T-V Jealousy
S- T-V Stag Line
S- T-V Tuxedo
S- Winty Nite

MINIMUM ORDER SHIPPED \$5.00; ADD \$1.00 TO EACH ORDER to help on packing and postage costs.

A \$10.00 order entitles you to \$1.00 value in gifts; but be sure to NAME SECOND CHOICE on gifts.

Our selection, 10 budded plants \$6.00, POSTPAID, SPECIAL DELIVERY. List any "don't-wants" alphabetically.

By Express, you are to pay Express Charges, our selection, 35¢ each; minimum order 20 plants.

We will issue NO PRICE LIST THIS SPRING. Order direct from this page.

NEW AFFILIATED CHAPTERS

Maxine Wangberg, Chairman, 14½ North Central Avenue, Harlowton, Montana

NORTH SHORE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK, Mrs. Raymond Moffatt, president, 24 Arlington Street, Huntington Station, L. I., N.Y.

WATER WONDERLAND AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN, Mrs. Martha Shafer, president, 429 Ada Street, Muskegon, Michigan.

STORRS AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, CONNECTICUT, Mrs. Wallace Moyle, president, Storrs Road, Storrs, Connecticut.

BLUE RIDGE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA, Mrs. J. R. Warren, president, 1120 Deering Street, Lynchburg, Virginia.

LOYALIST AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA, Mrs. Verner Watters, president, 1157 Manawagonish Street, Lancaster, New Brunswick, Canada.

FORT COLLINS VIOLETEERS, FORT COLLINS, COLORADO, Mrs. Si J. Williams, president, 180 Circle Drive, Fort Collins, Colorado.

Dear Affiliated Chapter Members,

As this message reaches you it will be nearing time for the 12th annual convention to be held in Rochester, New York, and brings to mind the Affiliated Chapter workshop meeting to be held on Friday afternoon. This meeting will be an informal one and is being held in order that I may assist your Chapter members with any problems that your Chapter may have and to instruct them in proper procedure in matters pertaining to the Chapter methods. Details of the meeting time and place will be found in the program sheets of this issue. I would appreciate as many delegates or representatives of Affiliated Chapters attending this meeting as are able to do so as I have several items to bring before the meeting that affect all Chapters.

Show time will soon again be here. If you are planning to request the National award ribbons, may I suggest, at a meeting of your club previous to the show date, that the rules governing these awards be discussed so that your club members are acquainted with them and the entries or classification committee be responsible for checking all entries to ascertain whether or not they are all registered varieties. This will not only relieve the judges of the task of checking these entries but will also enable the exhibitor to replace non-registered varieties with registered ones in the event that they were erroneously entered, and thus be eligible for the awards. The list of registered plants is found in the back of the current Handbook and in each issue of the Magazine. When requesting ribbons, be sure to state if you wish the Commercial ribbons in addition to the Amateur ones.

Please send all new and renewal memberships for your Chapter members to me. These are being forwarded to me that I may check my records, but it will save time and effort if you will mail them directly to me.

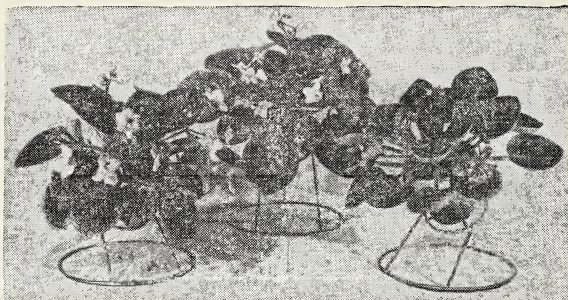
I am looking forward to meeting you in Rochester.

Cordially,

Maxine Wangberg

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Rochester
in
April



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following pot sizes

Standard 2½"

Standard & squatty 3"

Standard & squatty 4"

2 heights . . . 4" & 6"

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EVENINGS 7-9 P.M.

SUNDAYS 2-5

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TO ROCHESTER

TO THE CONVENTION

TO OUR GREENHOUSES

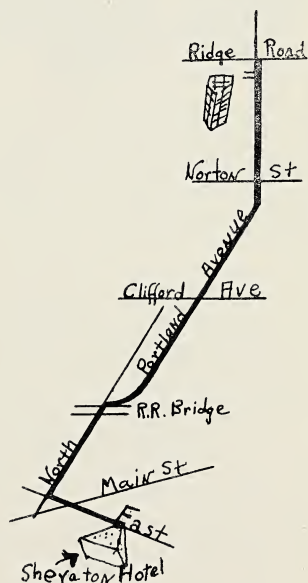
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Just 10 Minutes
From The
Sheraton Hotel

REPORT ON THE USE OF DIAZINON FOR CONTROL OF CYCLAMEN MITES

Virgil A. Winter, Willows, California

In January 1957 I received an African violet plant which was loaded with dynamite in the form of cyclamen mite. Up until that time my plant quarantine system was rather sketchy, and, I was to find out to my sorrow, wholly inadequate. I had, had this plant about six weeks when I noticed definite signs of mite on scattered plants throughout my entire collection of almost five hundred plants.

Apparently the original invaders had multiplied prodigiously and had been carefully spread from plant to plant, either by hand or by the watering pot.

My initial plan of warfare was to dispose of all infested plants and spray the remainder with a solution of Pyrethrin and Rotenone. This did not help at all, and soon more plants were infested. Next I tried a mixture of two teaspoons of Malathion per gallon of water as a spray, which resulted in a slight slow down of infestation but gave no control. My next move was to dip all plants, pot and all, into the Malathion solution, which gave a fair control of the mites but brought complaints from my wife regarding a headache from the fumes. I had been so intent on saving my plants that I hadn't realized until then that my head was aching and spinning like a top from the Malathion absorbed through my hands and from breathing the fumes. The net result was an almost clean collection, but a definite resolve not to expose myself and family to Malathion again.

During the early part of June I asked Mr. E. H. Jones, sales representative of the Pacoast Chemical Company, if there wasn't some chemical on the market that would control cyclamen mite and was not toxic to African violet plants and to the operator. Heretofore everyone I had asked expressed regrets or suggested sprays of fumigants such as Parathion or Endrin, which cannot be used in the home, and are extremely dangerous to the person applying them. Apparently I had asked the right question at the right time of the right man. Diazinon, introduced by the Pacoast Chemical Company, had just been released about the first of June. It was specifically recommended to control cyclamen mite in strawberries, but as yet there had been no experimental work done with its use on African violets. Mr. Jones very kindly gave me several pounds of Diazinon 25% Wettable Powder and 4% Dusting Powder, along with suggestions on their use. The point that specifically interested me was the fact that Diazinon was far less toxic to humans than Malathion, in fact is only slightly higher on the scale of toxicity than

DDT, one of the most common insecticides in use today.

At the same time Mr. Jones sent me the samples, he instituted controlled experiments in the laboratory of mite infested African violets with the following results, which are identical with my own.

Heavily infested plants were sprayed with solutions containing respectively 0.5 oz, 1 oz and 2 oz Diazinon 25% Wettable per gallon of water, with especially heavy coverage in the crowns. Within ten days complete control of mites was observed, but by fourteen days definite toxic effects were seen in the plants. By the end of three weeks, plants treated with the one and two ounce solutions were dead; plants treated with the 0.5 oz showed yellowed leaves and definite stoppage of new growth, which has lasted on some as long as six months. However, leaves taken from the surviving plants and rooted, have produced numerous normal, healthy plantlets. This would indicate to me that even 0.5 oz of 25% Wettable is still too strong a solution for treatment of African violets. It is possible that smaller amounts might still control mites and not prove to be so toxic. Unfortunately (?) after conducting the experiment I had no more mites on which to try it, and I am not going out to find some more.

The second part of the experiment, using the 4% Dusting Powder, was a very definite success. Infested plants were dusted heavily with a hand duster once every two weeks. Fourteen days showed 98% plus control, and the second dusting gave complete control without further infestation. All plants which were dusted showed absolutely no toxic effect on growth, color of leaf, or bloom. New growth continued normally, and after all mites were controlled, a warm spray removed all traces of the dust and left the plants looking as good as new.

During the course of the experiment of spraying, dipping and dusting, I was exposed many times to spray mist or dust with absolutely no adverse effects on me, even at the higher rates of application which proved so disastrous to some of the plants. This safety factor for the operator, and the ease of control of mites, will, I believe, make Diazinon a must for mite control.

To the many people raising African violets in their homes, who must rule out the more potent sprays, dusts, and soil treatments because of possible poisoning of themselves, their children, or pets, Diazinon 4% Dust is the answer to a prayer and will, I think, soon become the accepted means of controlling the cyclamen mite.

end

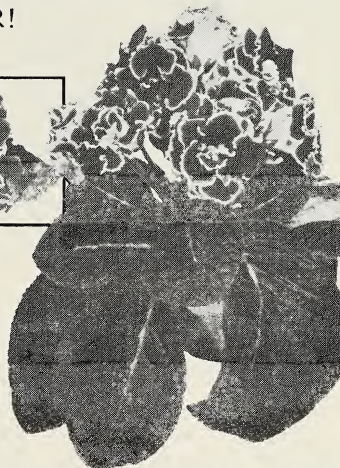
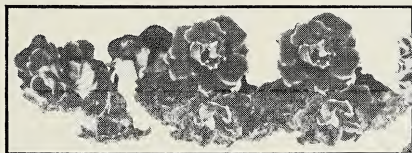
NEVER BEFORE GROWN!

STERN'S Proudly Offers the World's First and Only

DOUBLE-FLOWERING GLOXINIAS

IMMENSE DOUBLE FLOWERS 4" TO 5" ACROSS!

BLOOM ALMOST ALL YEAR!



BIG, COMPLETELY DOUBLE FLOWERS, LIKE A ROSE OR CAMELLIA — a full 4" to 5" across bloom profusely, too — from 50 to 150 blossoms a plant, twice a year.

There never has been anything like these before! Stern's huge new **DOUBLE-FLOWERING** gloxinias — **FIESTA*** and **SUNRISE*** — that are sure to become your special favorites. It took five years to develop these marvelous new varieties, but it was certainly worth the time.

**BLOOM CONTINUALLY FOR 4 MONTHS —
STAY DORMANT 2 MONTHS —
THEN BLOOM AGAIN!**

These new gloxinias are very easy to grow, and produce a fabulous 50 to 150 blossoms per plant each blooming season. Big double flowers of excellent substance that measure 4" to 5" across. **FIESTA** is a blazing red beauty. **SUNRISE** is red with white borders. They bloom twice a year, having a cycle of 4 months in bloom and then 2 months dormant.

THRIVE INDOORS AND OUT!

In the summer, display the plants outdoors as breathtaking showpieces in your garden or patio. In the fall bring them inside again and enjoy their brilliant blossoms all through the winter.

**MAGNIFICENT FLOWERS GUARANTEED
WITHIN 60 TO 80 DAYS**

Stern's ships you healthy, well-rooted plants packed in newly-developed containers that unconditionally guarantee safe delivery. Follow the easy directions for care and your gloxinias will burst into radiant bloom within 60 to 80 days — and continue to produce hundreds of magnificent double blossoms, year after year, for about 15 years.

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DOUBLE-FLOWERING GLOXINIAS

Fiesta (Blazing Red)

Sunrise (Red with White Borders)

Each	(any color you choose)	\$2
2	(one of each color)	\$3.75
4	(2 of each color)	\$7
10	(any choice of colors)	\$15
25	(any choice of colors)	\$30

All Prices Postpaid

Directions For Easy Care Enclosed

LIMITED SUPPLY

**of These Exclusive New Flowers
Order Now — Money Back Guarantee**

To be sure you'll receive these completely new varieties of gloxinia, this season, place your order **right now!** The plants are rare, and we expect our supplies to be taken in short order. You must be fully satisfied, your plants must bloom within 60 to 80 days, or you'll receive free replacement or full refund. Mail the coupon now for your new **FIESTA** and **SUNRISE DOUBLE-FLOWERING** gloxinias.

SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER

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Specialists in Rare and Choice Trees,
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**BE FIRST TO HAVE THE WORLD'S FIRST
DOUBLE-FLOWERING GLOXINIAS
MAIL COUPON NOW!**

Stern's Nurseries, Dept. 151, Geneva, New York

Please rush me Stern's new **DOUBLE-FLOWERING** gloxinias in the following quantities:

☐ **—Fiesta (Blazing Red)**
☐ **—Sunrise (Red with White Borders)**
☐ **\$2.00 Each** (any color you choose)
 ☐ **2 (one of each color)** \$3.75
☐ **4 (two of each color)** \$7.00
 ☐ **10 (any choice of colors)** \$15.00
☐ **25 (any choice of colors)** \$30.00

All prices postpaid. Check or Money Order Enclosed for Total: \$.....

My new **DOUBLE-FLOWERING** gloxinias must bloom beautifully within 60 to 80 days after planting, or I'll receive free replacement or money back.

Name

Address

City State

WHY THE FLOWERS COME BEFORE THE PLANTLETS

Elizabeth C. Shoaf, Roanoke, Virginia

In regard to the story in the December issue about "Flowers but No Plants", I too have had flowers come before the plantlets. In fact, it happened so many times that I began to investigate.

At that time I was pulling leaves from the mother plant and not cutting the stem before I put it down in the sphagnum moss and sand mixture in which I rooted my leaves. In pulling the leaf from a blooming plant, I was getting the tiny flower bud with it (at the base of the stem). I discovered this with the aid of a pocket microscope.

I believe this may explain why flowers may come before the plantlets. end

TREATMENT OF GROWING BENCHES WITH V-C 13

Lutie Dunlap and Bill Smithson, Kansas City, Mo.

We use V-C 13 twice a year, or about every six months, on our growing benches, and mix it at the rate of one teaspoon to a gallon of water. We apply the V-C 13 solution with the garden watering can. One gallon covers about fifteen square feet of bench. After treating a bench, we allow it to air for twenty-four hours before placing plants in it.

Whenever we clean out a bench for any reason, we always treat the vermiculite with V-C 13 before refilling it. We do not worry too much about the individual plant which might have nematodes as long as we feel confident that the nematodes cannot be transferred along the bench to other plants. end



Just naturally grow together

That's a fact — African violets grow bigger and healthier, have more blooms when fed the Stim-U-Plant way. For prize winners, start with our Hi-Organic soil mixes, feed with the rich, balanced Stim-U-Plant solution and keep pests away with Sel-Kaps or African violet spray. That's the formula of successful growers, coast to coast.

Need prizes or favors for your next society meeting? Write about Stim-U-Plant's free sampling program, including Violet Food packets, show entry tags, plastic plant markers and useful "how to grow" leaflets.

STIM-U-PLANT LABORATORIES, INC.

2077 Parkwood Avenue Columbus 19, Ohio
Finest Home Garden Aids for over 40 years.

Stim-U-Plant African Violet Food — the standby of successful growers everywhere. Easy to use, economical, 3-oz. can makes 60 qts. liquid plant food mixture.



Stim-U-Plant African Violet Spray. New, handy insecticide for violets and all other house plants. Full protection with one quick spray.

Sel-Kaps. An effective insecticide which plant absorbs, giving it immunity to mites, mealy bugs, red spider, aphids, etc. Safe, can't harm your African Violets.



African Violet Soil, Peat Humus, Planter Mix, Special mixtures to assure maximum growth and blooming.

Stim-U-Plant products are available in Variety, Hardware, and Garden stores, Floral shops, Supermarkets.

Should I water from top or bottom?

How can I increase humidity?

What is a good soil mixture?

Can I grow violets from leaves?

How can I grow blue-ribbon show plants?

How can I tell when to repot them?

1001 AFRICAN VIOLET QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY TWELVE EXPERTS

Edited by Helen Van Pelt Wilson

Here are the questions you have asked — and the answers to solve all of your problems, whether you grow African violets in windows, under fluorescent lights or in a greenhouse. The questions come from people like yourself, growers and admirers throughout America; the answers come from twelve experts who live and raise Saintpaulias in ten different areas of the country so that every possible

climate, humidity, soil type and other regional consideration is represented.

Answers are numbered, conveniently indexed for quick and easy reference and grouped by subject — heredity; bloom; soils and fertilizers; hybridizing; troubles, controls and cures. Whatever your particular problem, you'll find expert advice in the pages of this complete reference book.

THE EDITOR

HELEN VAN PELT WILSON is an internationally known authority on home gardening and author of eight books

THE EXPERTS

DR. SHELDON C. REED, St. Paul, Minnesota, specialist in heredity and hybridizing.

ALMA WRIGHT, Knoxville, Tennessee, editor of *African Violet Magazine*.

MARY and NEIL MILLER, Layton's Lake, Penns Grove, New Jersey. Supply dealers and specialists in pests and diseases.

RUTH and LYNDON LYON, Dolgeville, New York, hybridizers and growers.

PAUL E. ROCKELMANN, Linwood, New Jersey, hybridizer for Fischer Greenhouses.

ANNE and FRANK TINARI, Bethayres, Pennsylvania, hybridizers and growers.

GERTRUDE BUSH, Muncie, Kansas, home grower and exhibitor.

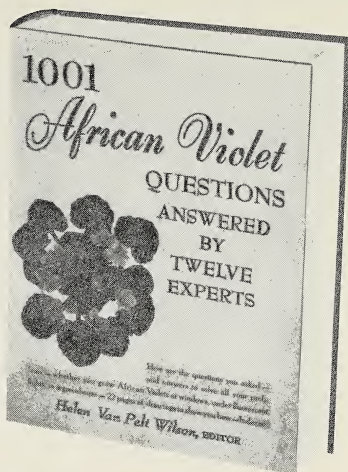
RUTH G. CAREY, Knoxville, Tennessee, expert on judging and exhibiting.

HELEN MONTGOMERY, Kansas City, Missouri, specialist in miniatures.

BETTY STOEHR, Greenwood, Indiana, specialist in home growing and exhibiting.

HELENA PEARL THOMAS, Walnut Creek, California, authority on home growing.

MAISIE YAKIE, Port Arthur, Texas, authority on culture in hot, humid climate.



368 pages illustrated by Judith Hirtle

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SUCCESSFUL GROWER USES WELL WATER

Mrs. Robert Johnston of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, has been growing African violets for twenty-five years, and one of the nicest she has grown is a double white. It was started from a cutting and in about seven months' time it grew to over fifteen inches across and ten inches tall, and had over one hundred blooms. Each flower measured exactly one and three-quarters inches in diameter and was a snowy-white with the exception of a small orchid spot in the center of the flower.

During the seven months in which Mrs. Johnston was growing this plant, she repotted it twice, using her own formula as a soil mixture. She mixes black soil, sand and peat moss in equal proportions and uses only well water for her plants.

Mrs. Johnston has a regular feeding schedule for her more than one hundred plants, and fertilizes them every four to six weeks. The plants do not receive full sunlight. All watering is done from the bottom. Care is taken so that the plants will not receive cold drafts which might cause the foliage to turn brown on the edges; also the plants are sprayed regularly to keep them free of spider mites and other pests.

During the summer, all of Mrs. Johnston's African violets live outdoors under a fruit tree in the yard where they don't get any sun. Flats filled with peat moss are used to set the pots of violets in. They have a sprinkling system using well water, which takes care of the watering; they have their grass and shrubbery sprayed every month, and that same spraying takes care of any bugs that may have gotten on the violets. In the fall as the African violets are brought in the house, they are repotted. end

POTS FOR YOUR LITTLE VIOLETS

2 1/4 inch Huminal — 25 for \$1.00. Wonderful for root development. Made of peat and wood fibre no manure. 2 1/4 inch plastic mottled gray, 20 for \$1.00. Shipped prepaid parcel post.

NORA E. MANEGOLD

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African Violet Introductions:

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Write for retail price list.

MADISON GARDENS

West Middle Ridge Rd.
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CULTIVAR

Dr. Harold Moore, Ithaca, New York

The term cultivar, abbreviated cv., is used to designate a horticultural variety and was adopted at the International Horticultural Congress held in London in September, 1952. The official guide to its use is the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants which was published in 1953. A revised edition is expected to appear in 1958. Since the term cultivar is becoming more generally known, it is felt that an explanation of its meaning is in order now.

In 1918, L. H. Bailey distinguished plants originating in cultivation as cultigens as opposed to native plants (indigenous to a region) which he called indigens. The term cultivar was proposed by Bailey in 1923 to definitely distinguish plants originating or maintained in cultivation as varieties from those wild plants which constitute botanical varieties.

Cultivar names of the future are to be in a modern language and are distinguished from botanical varieties by the typographical device of using single quotation marks. Those earlier cultivars that have been given Latin forms are to be treated in the same manner. The name of the person who originated the cultivar name is not used in either instance. When the particular species to which a cultivar belongs is known, the cultivar name follows the specific name as in *Saintpaulia ionantha* 'Blue Boy' or *Episcia cupreata* 'Metallica'; but when the plants are of unknown or complex origin, the cultivar name may follow the genus directly as in *Smithiantha* 'Rose Queen.'

It is hoped that horticulturists and plantmen will eventually replace the word variety, which now has different meanings in botany and in horticulture, with the more precise term cultivar. Many European and some American plantmen have already adopted this device which will be standard in books and articles where precision of expression is to be expected. end

THE CONIBERS AFRICAN VIOLET HOUSE

For the Newest and Finest in African Violets
ELLCOTT ST. RD. BATAVIA, N. Y.
Rt. #63 S.E. 1 1/2 Miles from City Limits

LOST MEMBERS, see page 83. Please Help.

Newest And Choice Older Varieties.
Leaves Rooted Cuttings Small Plants
Stamp for list.

MRS. JAMES D. FOWLER

651 GREYSTONE SHERIDAN, WYOMING

President's Message



Mr. Carter

remember the first doubles that we had, how small the flowers were and how often they failed to open properly?

Then do you remember not so long ago when the double pink varieties showed up, and then all at once they seemed to be coming from all sides.

I wonder when we will get our first yellow variety . . . or one step further a double yellow? ? ?

It is safe to say that we may expect many new and sensational varieties as African violets are one plant that seems to be destined to develop sports and hybridize readily. The first new varieties came about mainly through sports and chance hybridization. Now, however, much more scientifically by hybridizers so that the end result is under more control. The desired characteristics are more readily obtained.

You will be interested to learn that our increase in dues has been accepted, quite well, by nearly everyone.

Our treasurer reports to me that our financial picture shows a considerably higher balance at the end of this year than the year previous. The Board of Directors disliked the idea of raising the dues but under the terrific impact of all costs going up since the establishment of the Society we knew that was necessary. It should be kept in mind that the dues have only been raised by one third.

One very old Horticulture Society that I am connected with had dues at \$3.00 for many years. During a comparatively short period, dues in this society have been raised to \$4.00, \$5.00, and now to \$8.00. This society is going strong and is continually improving its services. It appears now that we can keep our treasury in good balance with only a \$1.00 raise. One thing that is most important is that the Society continues to function in a manner to give you more service rather than less.

A point that has troubled the thinking of some of our members is the more or less common thought that the advertisers pay the cost of a magazine. That this is not the case you can readily ascertain by examination of the Treasurer's report in the June 1957 issue of the magazine. You will see that we receive about \$5,500 . . . for advertising while the magazine costs mounted to over \$31,000 . . .

Your Editor and the Officers have always considered the advertisements a service to the members as well as to the dealers.

The time is growing close for the Rochester Convention. I urge you to attend if it is at all possible. Rochester is a beautiful city and has much of interest to everyone.

The Committee is planning to allow the public to view the Show at a specified time. There will be a fee charged for admission. This will give the people of Rochester a chance to see what the National does.

Be sure and send in your reservations early. By so doing you will ease the burden on the Convention Committee unmeasurably.

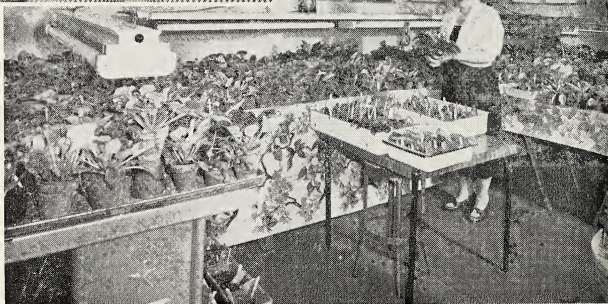
Sincerely,

William B. Carter



Mrs. Tretter and some of the plants in her collection.

Mrs. Tretter looking over plants in her basement greenhouse. Framed on the back wall are some of the sweepstakes and National Gold ribbons won in shows.



African Violets As I Grow Them

Adele Tretter, St. Louis, Missouri

I have been growing African violets for at least ten years but can only claim success with them during the past five years. I believe you can always improve on your product. I am always trying something different, and always looking for something or some way to grow them just a little better.

It is an interesting hobby and when one gets started on this hobby it is so fascinating that it is only comparable with a serious disease. You just have to have every new variety that you see or hear about.

In my opinion the only way to grow prize plants is under lights. I do bring some upstairs to display on my tables or in the window, but they have a much healthier color and bloom more profusely when left under the fluorescent lights. I have my lights about twelve to fourteen inches above the tops of my plants. My fixtures are the standard two-tube reflector type.

I have experimented with different colored tubes and I have found that the young plants bloom much faster under daylight tubes, so I have been using one daylight and one warm white in each fixture. I believe I have had some improvement in my plants since I have done this. My lights are left on about fourteen hours a day.

African violets do not like it too warm. The temperature in my basement stays around seventy degrees at all times. The humidity is between fifty and sixty. In the summer when the temperatures go above eighty, the African violets do suffer, but I close the windows in the afternoon and open them in the evening, leaving them open all night, and that does help some. If the humidity goes too high, which happens quite often in our St. Louis summers, I turn on an electric fan; this will bring the humidity down very quickly. I try to keep the African violets as cool as possible during our hot sum-

mers, and I seldom lose a plant. I do believe it is a waste of time to start leaves and young plants in the summer.

I always start my leaf cuttings in water. I cut the stem of a healthy leaf on a slant about two inches from the leaf blade, and usually allow it to lay for about an hour. It is then put in a bottle of water and left there until it has roots about one-half inch in length. I then insert the leaf in vermiculite with a little granulated charcoal added. Most of my leaves are put in trays, but if they are of treasured new varieties I insert them in a small pot, sink this pot in a larger pot filled with sand or vermiculite, and then cover it with a glass jar. I have found that leaves propagate faster this way, and I seldom lose a leaf when it is started in this manner.

When the little plants are about one and one-half inches high, they are separated and planted about three inches apart in plastic trays of vermiculite. This is a little extra work, but you will lose very few plants if they are done this way because they can take the shock of being divided much easier in community pans of vermiculite than if they are potted individually. When they begin to take on growth and show they are established, I pot them in two inch pots. I fill the pot with my mixture, then make a core in the center, lift the plant from the vermiculite, being careful not to shake off what clings to the roots, insert it in the core, and then press down and fill in. The plants are left in the two inch pots until they are blooming size. They are then shifted to three inch pots. African violets should never be planted in too large a pot. My plants are groomed from the time they are potted in the two inch pots. All suckers are removed, and the leaves are arranged where I want them. To me every plant grown is a plant being prepared for show. (They don't all make it, but I try.)

All of my African violet plants and trays of leaves are fed twice a month, with the exception of the months of June, July and August, with Ortho-Gro. I have tried a number of plant foods, but I have never found anything to equal Ortho-Gro. I mix this plant food in, water according to directions for house plants, and water from the top. Sometimes I fill my spray can with this mixture and spray the plants. I always water with plain water the day before I feed so that the soil is slightly moist.

My plants are sprayed once a month with Isotox as a precaution. If Isotox is diluted with warm water according to directions, it will not burn or spot the foliage or flowers. My plants are always sprayed before going into a show and sprayed thoroughly when they are brought back home. I have not used VC-13 as yet, but I have a bottle and intend to use it very soon. I do not have any trouble, but I do believe in being cautious. It does seem that spraying perks the plants up. I always isolate new plants for at least five weeks.

My planting mixture is Nature's Way. I find it is not only very good for the plants, but so

BLUE WARRIOR HITS THE TRAIL . . .

Clara Smith Reber, Conneaut Lake, Pennsylvania

As Chairman of our local Youth Flower Show sponsored by the Woman's Club Garden Group, I found that African violets are loved by younger people as well as the older ones. So much has been written about the growing of African violets that I could add nothing with my own haphazard methods but I should like to tell about my Woodland Scene Planter. It has gone to the Youth Flower Show for three consecutive years.

This is how I made my Woodland Scene! I used a square glass container about three inches deep (it should be a little deeper) and in the very back I placed an upright piece of driftwood which branched out in both directions so as not to make the planter top-heavy. A few pebbles went into the bottom of the container then some humus and woods dirt. Immediately in front of the driftwood I placed a young fern also from the woodland area, thus adding naturalness to the scene. I then placed a small Blue Warrior in the center front and a small leaf cutting of an air plant at the right. I covered the entire planter with moss, allowing a bit of it to "climb" up the driftwood. (The moss held the moisture during the hot summer days.) I placed the planter in our den which is pine panelled; a tall blue spruce outside the picture window served as a background for my Woodland Scene. Blue Warrior has seemed much happier since Ruffled Queen consented to walk down the trail with him!

A yellow butterfly (ceramic) has never left the scene. My pet green frog sits unblinkingly (and unthinkingly) as a little canary sways on a branch of the fern. But now I must transplant my African violets soon because you see, like the little boys and girls who had such fun at the flower show, they too have grown up! end

much more convenient than running around looking for soil. Recently I have been using Elkor-ganic, using five parts Nature's Way and one part Elkor-ganic. I like this very much.

In closing, may I say that any plant started out the right way, with a good feeding and spraying program, can be a blue ribbon winner. And even if they do not win ribbons, they can really bring a lot of sunshine and happiness into a home. end

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The most typical method of watering African violets is from the top using a small watering can with a long spout.



Top watering with a glass roasting baster. Mrs. Boyd Steed of Atlanta, Georgia is pictured watering her plants.

Top Watering Of African Violets

H. G. Harvey, Atlanta, Georgia

There are four recognized methods of watering African violets: top watering, bottom watering, constant level watering, and wick watering. Of these four probably top watering is the most commonly used. It seems to be more adaptable to varying conditions, and to be of more universal application than any of the other three.

In one typical method of top watering a small watering can with a long spout is used. The end of this spout is inserted under the leaves of the plant and water is poured on the surface of the soil in the pot near the edge or rim until the flower pot can hold no more water. After this water has soaked into the soil, more is supplied until the soil is completely saturated and the excess water runs out the drainage hole in the bottom of the pot. When proper precautions are taken, this is a satisfactory way of watering.

One of the proper precautions is to use warm water. This was first advocated as a preventive of ring, or water, spots on the leaves. When cold water is spilled on the leaves and left there, it is likely to cause a wavy white line to appear on the leaf, more or less following the outline of the edge of the water spot. The scientists tell us that the difference in temperature causes the cells of the leaf epidermis to burst along the line of this temperature difference, thus killing the chlorophyll in the cells and producing the white line we call the water spot. In this connection,

warm water is defined as water whose temperature is within ten degrees of that of the plant. For those who desire a more definite and arbitrary rule, water at a temperature between 75 and 90 degrees Fahrenheit is practically always satisfactory as far as temperature is concerned. It should be noted that water can be too hot as well as too cold, and water very much above 90 degrees is liable to damage leaves just as much as cold water. Even when using warm water it is good practice to wipe off thick or rounded globules of water spilled on the leaves. This wet spot is better than leaving a thick layer of water which might cause trouble under some conditions. Direct sunlight combined with spilled water can quite often cause damage, and sunlight should be avoided during the watering period.

Another advantage of the use of warm water is that it prevents a shock to the plant, which cold water positively produces. This advantage is so definite and general that the use of warm water on other house plants besides African violets is advocated by a number of authorities.

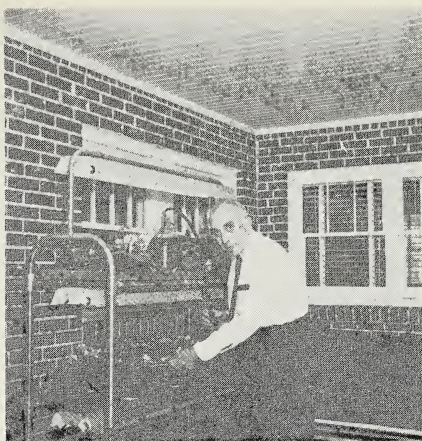
The use of a tempering tank to obtain the warm water is quite common. In its simplest form this is a pan or pail of water sitting in the same room with the violets, thus attaining the same temperature. Water is drawn from this pan with which to water the violets instead of from the tap.

Another necessary precaution is to water the plant completely until water runs out of the drain hole. The chief disadvantage of top watering is the hazard that only the top of the soil will get wet, leaving the bottom still dry. The roots of the plant will of course grow to the damp locations, so they will grow shallowly if the bottom of the pot stays normally dry. If the soil in the pot is completely saturated each time the plant is watered, the bottom soil will start out after the watering as wet, or wetter, than that at the top, and as the soil dries out, it will dry out at the top first. Thus the roots will have a rather strong natural inducement to grow downward. The African violet is naturally a shallow rooted plant any way, and every effort should be made to send its roots downward.

With this method of determining how much water to use at a time, the amount of water left in the pot depends upon the texture of the soil in the pot. To a certain extent, the grower is at the mercy of the soil for satisfactory watering. If it is too moisture retentive, the tendency is to overwater; if not moisture retentive enough, to underwater. While there are rule of thumb methods of determining whether a proposed soil retains water, its reaction to normal watering is the best test. If there seems to be too much time between waterings and the soil in the pot stays wet too long, the soil is modified one way, if the waterings seem unduly close together, the soil is changed the other way. However, there seems to be a wide latitude in acceptable moisture retentivity of soils, and cases of watering troubles due to the soil texture are rare.

By far the most difficult and important part of the entire watering process is the determination of when to water or (which is much more important) when not to water. After a complete and thorough watering, the plant should be left alone and not watered again until the soil at the top of the pot is quite dry. The object is to let the plant get just as dry as it is safe to do, and then to water it just before it begins to wilt. A relatively long dry down period between waterings is absolutely essential to the well being of the plant, and this applies regardless of the method of watering used. The ease with which this dry down period can be produced and regulated is one of the biggest advantages of the top watering method.

The reason for this dry out period between waterings is the necessity for keeping the growth of harmful fungi and bacteria in the soil under control. These harmful fungi cause the soil to get sour, and they also produce the various rots — root rot, crown rot, and the like, that damage and ultimately kill the plant. The plant likes a lot of moisture, but so do the fungi. You can not help the plant without helping the fungi. One difference between them, however, is that the plant can stand longer periods of comparative dryness between waterings than can the fungi. So from one point of view, the object in watering is to give both the plant and the fungi plenty of



Top watering with a syphon-waterer. Mr. Harvey is shown using this easy and time saving method.

Top watering with a hose. Mrs. Todd Liddell of Atlanta, Georgia can water many plants quickly.



water, and then to dry them out together long enough to seriously injure or perhaps kill the fungi without hurting the plant too much.

The development of soil sourness and rots in over-watered plants to the point where the damage produced is evident, is a slow process. The deterioration or decay can progress a long way without producing important distress symptoms in the plant. It is surprising how small a ball of roots will support an African violet's

leaves and blooms in the style to which they are accustomed, if the plant is continuously over-watered. During this period, the plant, getting plenty of water, thrives more luxuriantly than does its properly watered neighbor. Then, suddenly, the day of reckoning comes. You try to pull a leaf off the plant, and the entire plant comes off in your hands. Or you observe the leaves slightly wilted and water the plant to restore its freshness, but the freshness does not return, instead the plant gets even more wilted. By that time it is too late to correct the method of watering as far as those particular plants are concerned.

It is difficult to define definitely the degree of dryness a plant should reach before it is watered. If the mature plant shows a good root system, it has not been seriously over watered. There is a simple test or indicator which can be used from time to time, if porous clay pots are being used. A white porous paper towel or a thick porous paper napkin is spread out on a table. The flower pot is placed on this towel or napkin and left there for five minutes. If, when the pot is lifted off, there is a wet spot on the paper where it has been resting, watering is not yet advisable. If the paper stayed dry underneath the pot, immediate watering is indicated. The writer actually watered a group of plants by this system for a number of months with perfect results. It is, however, too much work for normal use.

Watering is one of the important elements of African violet culture. The method is relatively unimportant, any one of the four standard methods can be used with successful results. It is the details with which the method is used that makes the difference between success and failure. Over-watering is the most common fault. By over-watering is meant, not too much water at one time, that can hardly be done in a pot with adequate drainage facilities, but too frequent waterings so that the soil does not dry out sufficiently between times. A drying out period between waterings is essential, regardless of the method of watering employed. A good root system on a plant is positive evidence that it has been properly watered. end

ON THE CHARTREUSE EDGING OF VIOLET FLOWERS

Charles Fischer, Fischer's Greenhouses,
Linwood, N. J.

Our story begins with the variety Double Margaret, a deep blue frilled double that we introduced some five years ago. This plant proved of particular interest because it sported frequently and produced a number of interesting varieties. One sport was Brussels Sprouts which we dubbed "Parrot Tulip of the African violets." Flowers were almost leafy in color and texture. Brussels Sprouts apparently represented the extreme variation from "Double Margaret" for other intermediate sports with characteristics of both varieties also appeared. Several of these double sports had flowers that were edged in chartreuse, the edges appearing in a range of intensities.

The chartreuse edge doubles with which we are now working resulted from crosses with the Double Margaret sports and other conventional double types. The single varieties with chartreuse edge, typified by "Pirate Gold", resulted from crosses of the Double Margaret sports on single plants.

It is interesting to note that, despite general opinion, Brussels Sprouts was never a useful parent plant in any of our breeding, and none of its offspring had merit in our estimation.

We have recently made an interesting observation that may be helpful in explaining the chartreuse edge. In a cross between a lavender Geneva type and a single pink we noted several white seedlings, both single and double, with chartreuse edging. Such observations are fascinating but at the moment we admit that we do not have much understanding of the genetics of the situation. After some of our current seedlings come into bloom we expect to have more information. We would also be interested to hear the experience of other growers in their development of this most exciting characteristic, the chartreuse edge. end

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A SEARCH FOR AFRICAN VIOLETS

Ruth E. Punter, Tanga, P. O. Box 140, Tanganyika

We live in the land of African violets, at Tanga, a small port on the coast of Tanganyika Territory, East Africa. This is within walking distance of the Amboni Caves, on the Mkulumusi River, the original habitat of the *Saintpaulia ionantha*. We lived here for several years knowing nothing of this little plant, and first discovered it while searching for wild orchids.

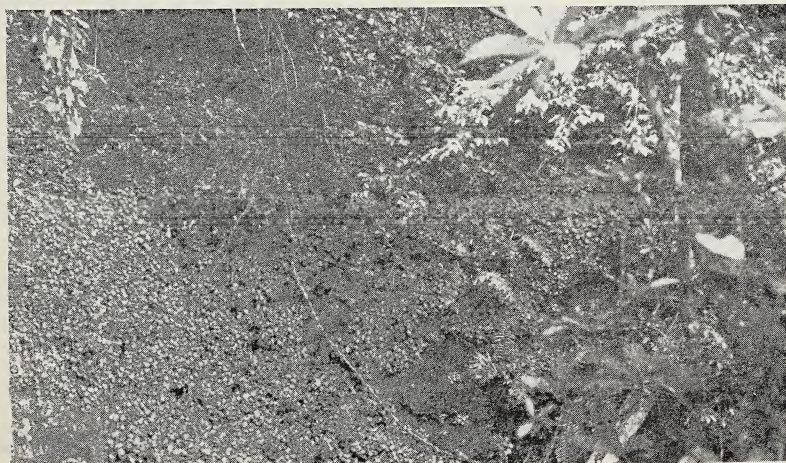
My husband, being a keen botanist, is now himself collecting the different species of African violets straight from their original sources, so that they may be classified with no doubt of their identity. During these searches we and our small sons, Robert and George, aged seven and eight, have enjoyed picnics in many places off the beaten track, from the local limestone river beds, to places high in the Usambara Mountains, 7000 feet above sea level. Sometimes we have been unlucky, and have searched for hours without finding a trace, but on one occasion we were especially well rewarded by finding masses of plants of a creeping variety, covering completely, large expanses of rocky cliffs and boulders, on the banks of the Misimbazi River, about thirty-five miles from Tanga. We enclose some photographs taken on this expedition.

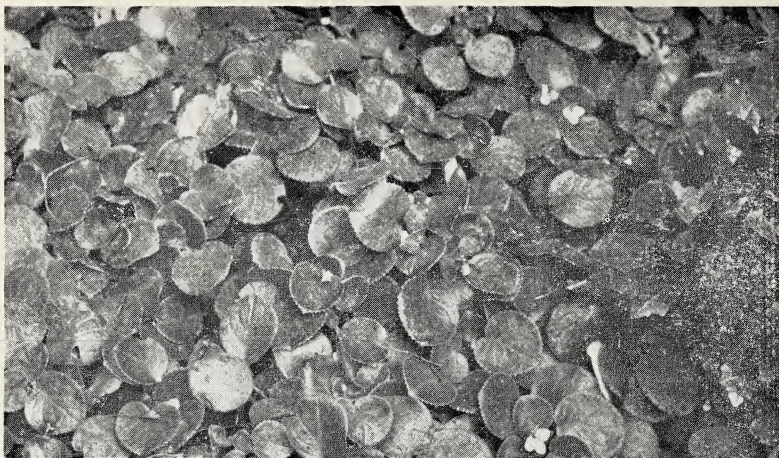
Last week we had an experience, a description of which will give you a picture of the sort of country where the violets are usually found. We had information on good authority that in one part of the Mkulumusi valley further inland, which we had not then visited before, there were literally thousands of violets. As the place was only a few miles away we started out at about three o'clock on a Sunday afternoon, with a large

flask of tea, our cameras, and our snakebite outfit, prepared for a pleasant picnic. We went to the house of our guide, an elderly man who lived in the vicinity of the violets, and there transferred to his Landrover, in which he took us by a devious route, to a spot close to the river bed.

The river was hidden in a long winding valley of virgin forest, with large outcrops of jagged limestone cliffs and rocks, in some places overtopping the trees. Leaving our tea behind us, expecting to return shortly, as we did not intend going far into this wild country, we were led by our guide into the forest. There was no native path, so with a panga, which is a sort of machete which are used by Africans for clearing the bush, he hacked his way through the forest undergrowth, and after a few minutes climbing among rocks, around masses of dracena and over dark patches of squelchy ground covered with various plants and tropical ferns, we began to find the violets. In every nook and cranny capable of holding a teaspoonful of compost grew an African violet, as happily as in a flowerpot. The trees were not dense and at midday there must have been a dappled shade in the place. The leaves of the plants were very dark green and strong looking, but with a vast difference in the colours of the under sides which ranged from dark reddish purple, to light green. Leaves of similar plants sent to Kew Gardens two years ago, from a place in the same river gorge, were found to be the true *Saintpaulia diplotricha*. The flowers as far as we could see were all the same light blue colour. We examined this area with great delight, noticing in one corner a long

African violets growing on the Msimbazi River bank. Picture was taken at twenty-five feet.





Above, close up of plants on Msimbazi River bank. Photo was taken at four feet. Species unnamed. Note blossoms.



Right, *S. confusa* (diplotricha) growing on ledge formed by strata in the limestone rocks. Photo made June 1957 in Mkulumusi Valley.

straight shelf of violets as prim and pretty as a window box.

After a while I began to think that although so delightful our surroundings, we should be thinking of leaving this place as the light was beginning to fail, and night falls very quickly here on the equator. However our guide made a circling track, in between rocks and around clumps of bush, at one time leading us to the verge of a precipice where we were rather scared to find ourselves on a level with treetops, the roots of which were about a hundred feet below in the valley, and then leading us suddenly down to the river, to show us as we thought, a short way out of the forest. To our consternation however he drew up by an enormous rocky cliff, which projected into and overhung a dark,

sinister, swiftly moving river. He then looked around helplessly and said that he had missed the way, but that he thought that the simplest way to get back was to cross the river. This we could not do without swimming, and this we refused to do after studying the opposite bank which appeared to be an almost vertical cliff. We turned and surveyed with dismay the tangle of trees and rocks from which we had just emerged into this suddenly darkening valley. Three times we ascended a promising looking return route, only to come upon a rift in the rocks that we could not traverse, or a steep face which we could not climb. Our younger son had begun to whimper a little, but kept on manfully behind his brother, sliding and stumbling on rocks similar to those which he had traversed so happily a short

while before. The chattering of a lone monkey in the treetops was the only sign of life, we had only fifteen minutes to escape from this place before we should have to find a cave to camp for the night.

I had all but given up hope of finding our way out, when my husband, who had taken the lead since being threatened with a swim, joyfully exclaimed that he had caught sight of our little window box of violets gleaming in the dusk. He then traced back our path by the way that we had slashed through the forest on our entry. About ten minutes later we left rocks and forest behind, and returned thankfully to our Landrover, and flask of tea, having been only about two hundred and fifty yards from the forest verge during all our wanderings. Our guide immediately became very cheerful, and said that of course it was impossible to get really lost in the forest, in any case, there were no snakes there, only leopards.

My younger son and I have decided that we shall be satisfied for a while to enjoy the con-

templation of our present collection of violets, plus the few American double purples, pinks and bicolours which we proudly possess, and without the addition of any more species. My husband and Robert however are keen to be searching again. They are sure that if they search long enough that they will find a violet with a silver leaf. end

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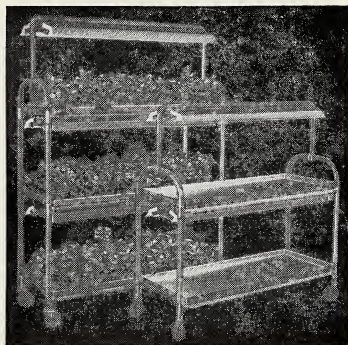
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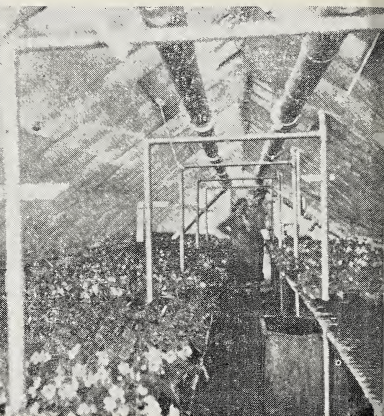


(left)

Mr. Hoefer and Mrs. Bullock admire some of Mr. Hoefer's beautiful glloxinias in his greenhouse in Eislingen, Germany.

(right)

In the background Mrs. Bullock and Mr. Wicks, Jr., admire many handsome plants in one of the Wicks' Greenhouses, Lambley, Nottinghamshire, England.



AFRICAN VIOLETS HIGHLIGHT EUROPEAN TRIP

Sophie Bullock, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

I am sitting in my garden reminiscing about the experiences I had in the past two months traveling through Germany, Italy, England and Scotland. My most outstanding thoughts are of the experiences with the African violet and I really feel that I would like to share them with other African violet lovers.

My thoughts wander back to the time when I talked to Alma Wright at the last convention in Cincinnati when she asked me to be sure and visit a Mr. Wicks in England. I feel certain you will be interested in the report I shall give you.

I arrived in Germany where I visited my seventy-eight year old mother. After spending one day greeting relatives and friends, I felt it was high time to look for and see what the African violet is doing in Germany. I went to one of the best flower shops where I saw an array of beautiful single blue plants. They are very much like our Blue Boy, with a more beautiful foliage. I obtained the address of the grower and went to find out why there is only a plain single blue variety on the market. I found two

large greenhouses filled with single dark blue plants and the grower (Hoefer of Eislingen) informed me that since the war there is so much to do that they simply did not have the time nor space and that hybridizing the African violet was neglected. Was he delighted when I unpacked about fifty leaves of different varieties, which I gave him with a good lecture as to what I expected from him in the future, also that I expected Germany to get busy and do something for the African violet world in the future. I have never seen a more beautifully grown single dark blue variety. I returned after four weeks with another thirty leaves of different varieties, which my husband had brought with him. The first fifty leaves had already rooted and not one had died! We had a really good time together and I feel satisfied that Germany will soon overflow with African violets of the different varieties that we have. I also feel certain that Mr. Hoefer will start to hybridize, and, if he does as well with the violet as he does with carnations and sweetpeas, he will do wonderfully well. He had quite a display of African violets at the

flower show in Goeppinger, Germany, this year, and it is hoped that next year he will be able to exhibit many of the varieties from America.

I have nothing to report about the African violet in Italy as we were on tour and had no time or strength to hunt the violet after visiting all the beautiful buildings and ancient ruins in nine days.

Our next stop was England. We landed by plane in London in the afternoon and the very next day at one o'clock we were in a Mr. Nutt's home in Leicester. We had picked Mr. Nutt's name out of the Members' Handbook, called him on the phone, and did we get a warm welcome! He really means business! He is a most interesting and charming man with a love for flowers and garden. He built a lean-to greenhouse about nine by twelve feet onto his house and has it filled with the most beautiful African violets I have ever seen. His breakfast room looks right into this greenhouse, and as I beheld this beauty I told him that I would probably spend all day eating breakfast. He has his plants planted in the trays, no tin pots, and from what I saw I can almost say that my theory of potbound plants certainly does not hold against this method.

After a few delightful hours, we went on our way to visit Mr. Wicks in Nottingham. We got there about five o'clock in the afternoon, and, to our disappointment, found that Mr. Wicks, Sr., was attending a flower show from where he had just phoned the good news that he again received the Gold Medal for his African violets. There was a spirit of delight and excitement among the workers in the greenhouses. Everyone was pleased. While we waited, of course in the greenhouses, to see Mr. Wicks, Jr., who was away for the moment but expected to return, I unconsciously had a mental picture of a young man with an Oxford accent, clothed in the latest fashion, with manicured finger nails. What a pleasant surprise when a most charming young man stood before me with a Nottingham accent, working clothes, and his hands — manicured with the good earth. His greatest love of course seems to be the African violet. The violet is just a side line with Wicks' Greenhouses, a well organized operation with beautiful and healthy plants of many types and varieties. Nevertheless, our greatest interest was in the African violet. Mr. Wicks, Jr. was very pleased to get the Gold Medal again, having received the same award in all the other shows they had entered this year, including the Chelsea Show in London. Each time it was the African violet which won the award for the Wicks' Greenhouses. He is most enthusiastic about the violet and I can see that Wicks' Greenhouses will go places with their undertaking. I saw beautiful plants there, and although Mr. Wicks told us that all of the most beautiful plants had been shipped, I told him, "I would give him the Gold Medal too for those I could see remaining."

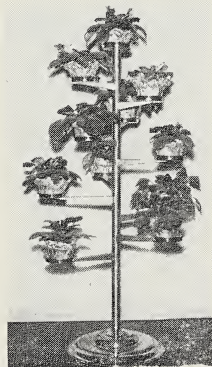
After completing a tour of the greenhouses Mr. Wicks showed us slides of the display at the

Chelsea Show, and then we had to say goodbye in order to get to the next town for dinner. No dinners served unless you are there between 7:30 and 8:30 o'clock.

After our visit to Wicks' Greenhouses, my husband made it clear to me that I must be satisfied now and not try to find every African violet grower in the book. I was an obedient wife and because I felt that I really could not find a more wonderful display anywhere than Mr. Nutt's, an amateur grower, and Mr. Wicks', a professional grower, the rest of the time was spent motoring through England and Scotland. As we traveled through the villages and towns I secretly kept my weather eye open, hoping to spot some African violets in a window. This did not happen so there was no opportunity to get out and ring door bells.

After two delightful months we came home and found our own plants in wonderful condition. A member of our African Violet Society, Mrs. Wills, was gracious enough to look after them and she really did an excellent job. I would hate to tell you how many plants I have in house and cellar, and not one of them "gave up the ghost." I can't tell you how delighted I was when a flower shop called me the day after our return, July 29th, asking if I had any blooming plants, and I could reply, "Yes, as many as you want." That is something after the terrific heat we have had in Philadelphia through July. It is a pleasure to find that with thousands of African violets you need not be house-bound as long as there are wonderful people in this world who love to do a favor.

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HOW TO JUDGE A SEEDLING FOR ITS WORTH

Bonnie Hartenbower, Springdale, Arkansas

Several factors, each of equal value, must be taken into careful consideration when looking over your seedlings to determine if one of them may be introduced as a new variety.

Major hybridizers expect to get only one good variety out of hundreds and hundreds of seedlings, perhaps we should say from a thousand or more, so you must not expect to get many from one pan of seeds. The chances are against you for getting something really outstanding; if you get one that is really outstanding from a sowing you will be lucky. So do not have your expectations whetted too keenly.

You will observe the development of your seedlings from the day the first tiny hint of green appears, and the first thing you will see will be that one has better foliage and sturdier growth than the others. Young plants with long petioles, poor texture leaf, non-symmetrical growth, and less vigor, you can mentally discard long before they bloom. Even if an undesirable plant produces an unusual bloom, you should not consider it worthwhile except for further hybridizing, in an attempt to carry the desirable bloom over onto better foliage. Therefore, in this particular discussion we will discard that type.

Actually a vigorous growth is the first reliable thing to notice. You cannot tell much about foliage in a very young plant. What may be attractive foliage in a young plant may become undesirable in the mature plant. Several unwanted characteristics could develop. Some foliage simply cannot stand the test of time. But you can get a pretty good idea of the growth habit of the plant even when it is quite young. Does it grow symmetrically, sturdily, vigorously, and with strong petioles? Also you do not want one to range all over the place; you want an agreeably compact plant.

At last your chosen star performers bloom. The flowers must be distinctive, different, and they must be large. The plant must be a heavy bloomer with lots of blooms to the stalk.

When it blooms and you think you have something different, you should observe the characteristics of the foliage through advanced maturity. Some foliage becomes yellowish with the age of the plant in spite of good care; in some varieties the bottom leaves become yellowish; some droop unhappily; some develop too long or too short petioles. Good foliage must have good substance, whether it be of dull or waxy sheen. Even a dull looking leaf should have a glow of vitality about it.

Let us suppose there is one in the group that seems quite outstanding and new to you. It fits

all specifications, is vigorous, symmetrical, has beautiful foliage, and bears large distinctive blooms in profusion. What is the next step? You must ascertain whether there is a plant like it already on the market. The best way to find out if you have something different would be to show the plant in good bloom to an African violet dealer who handles plants from hybridizers all over the nation. A small dealer who handles plants from only one or two sources could not be as helpful to you as the dealer who keeps up with the newest releases from all the major hybridizers over the country. If there is no such dealer anywhere near you whom you could consult, then get in contact with several small dealers who might buy from different sources. If it is not practicable for you to consult a dealer at all, then the next best thing is to study the descriptive lists of registered varieties. I believe the Registration chairman of the National Society may have a descriptive list available, and Carolyn Rector of California issues a good list annually.

If your plant does resemble a variety already on the market, it still could be acceptable as a release, providing it has some definite improvement over the similar variety. Such characteristics might be better growth habit, superior blooming performance, more attractive or desirable foliage, or perhaps it could have a combination of some or all of these improvements.

There are still a few more factors you should keep in mind when considering the worth of your seedling. It must propagate true to form, but it also must reproduce readily and generously. Several varieties are too slow and too stingy in producing. Can your plant take hot weather? Some varieties can take hot weather better than others. Will your plant be a good shipper, and thus be of worth to the commercial grower? Some foliage is too unyielding to ship satisfactorily.

I wrote several of the major violet hybridizers in America asking them to give the points each considered in selecting the most outstanding seedlings from their trial benches. Mrs. Grace Eyerdorn of Granger Gardens wrote a gracious note that she was too busy right now to make up an outline, but she did send her best wishes for good luck with your home hybridizing efforts. The others I contacted have written very helpful letters too. I give you the condensed content of their remarks, with enough actually quoted to give the "feel" of the letter and of the personality of the hybridizer. I have their replies arranged in alphabetical order.

Mr. Robert Anderson of Tonkadale Greenhouses, Minnesota.

"From my viewpoint, there are two reasons for further hybridization of African violets: 1. To get something different to add to the excitement of the hobbyist. 2. To improve the growing habits of African violets so more people will have better success at raising them.

"All violets have good and bad points. Naturally, the idea is to get good points together in a plant and eliminate as many poor points as possible.

"There are many poor characteristics that should not be carried over into the hybridizing program, such as two low flower count; blooms dropping too soon; flowers too small; flower stems too weak, not erect enough; leaf too brittle, or too large, or dull and unattractive; petiole too long, or too short, or too brittle; root system weak; too slow in propagating; and so on and on. We could go on for a long time."

The late Mr. R. G. Baxter, Ohio, is one of the very earliest, surely one of the very first, hybridizers of the African violet. Here are his comments:

"The object is to get something that is different and new, that will grow well. Right now in my trial bench are five hundred varieties which I chose from several thousand seedlings. Out of this five hundred I may get ten or twelve that are good. If I can get one or two good new varieties out of a thousand seedlings, I am doing well. The average person does not realize how much it costs in bench space and labor to get a new variety.

"Of this five hundred I am now working on, knowing that eventually I will throw them all out but ten or twelve, I will test leaves from each to see if they propagate true; I will watch to see which do not bloom good; I will discard those which develop undesirable features. This covers too much ground to discuss in a letter, but gives you the general idea.

"Good luck to all you home hybridizers who are working for better violets."

Fischer's Greenhouses, New Jersey. Mr. Paul Rockelmann, Fischer's charming and very busy Saintpaulia hybridizer, takes time out to send you these suggestions:

"I cannot list the characteristics a good seedling must have, in the order of their importance, as all are equally important and must go hand in hand. There must be a combination of good bloom, good flowering habit, good flower stems, good foliage, sturdy symmetrical growth.

"In selecting plants, I personally look for large blooms that are unusual or exceptional, with good color and lasting quality, on strong stems of adequate length to hold blooms well above foliage, and a generous number of blooms to the stem. The plant must have a good growing habit, with attractive foliage resistant to mildew and able to withstand the heat of summer months."

Mr. and Mrs. Lyndon Lyon of Dolgeville, New York, methodical and precise in their hybridizing work, sent not only a nice long letter of helpful information but sent the actual hybridizing chart by which they got their gorgeous new stars. Their lovely star blooms, five pointed like Star Sapphire, have been developed in many colors, and some of them are frilled. It took the Lyons four years to get their stars; they made their first cross for stars on June 4, 1952. Their chart follows every cross they made, and they use letters to designate the dominant or recessive characteristics in each case; they also note when certain crosses were sterile. Their chart covers a full page and is extensively detailed. Along with their chart giving the background of their lovely new stars, the Lyons sent this letter:

"We will be glad to express our thoughts concerning our new seedlings. What we want is something as big as a saucer, with petals of green and red parrot feathers . . . whoops! Well, anyhow, that is how new violets are created — first in our dreams. Note the blank expression on a violet hybridizer's face at times — he's seeing new violets that aren't even created yet; but at least he's taken the first step on them — he's thought of the violet he'd like to have.

"Now that we have in mind the violet that we want, we have to find the parts and put them together to make it. Actually, we have to judge the seedling long before it is born, and we keep judging it through all its stages of development along the way. Sometimes, to attain the specific thing we want, like our new stars for example, several crosses have to be made and several lines have to be started, and each has to be run for several generations before the necessary elements can be combined in the final plant. And, of course, there never is actually a "final plant," for we keep working for something better.

"But here are some of the characteristics a new variety must have before we would contemplate putting it on the market:

1. Is it an eye-catcher? How is its 'Attraction IQ'?
2. It must be a new and important combination of characteristics, and it must excel in its particular niche.
3. Performance. Without good performance, a variety is like a three legged stool that loses one of its legs and it will surely topple. We could talk endlessly on performance — how does it react to light, to temperature, to watering, to mildew; how soon do the plants come up from the leaf, and how many; do they have a good neck and plenty of roots. Does the variety perform well under lights; in the window; in the greenhouse; and very important to the home hobbyist, in all the windows and at all seasons of the year. And it must bloom early and freely.
4. We must not forget the commercial grower; the variety must grow with his production methods and it must ship well.

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5. At last we come to the most crucial test of all — YOU. If you dear people do not want it, our work has all been in vain. — The Lyons."

Frank A. Tinari of Pennsylvania has a nice place in a jewel of a setting. Mr. Tinari sent these remarks:

"I feel that successful hybridizing and selection of a new seedling comes from knowledge gained over a long period of time and from long experience in dealing with violets. As all of you well know, we want not only different combinations and types but we also must strive to develop good growing characteristics with strong factors that will give the new variety worthwhile advantages. A hybridizer must always strive to improve; and he must be very critical in considering what he puts on the market."

Mrs. George S. Vallin of Beaumont, Texas, who has produced such beautiful foliages and striking blooms with the frilly chartreuse edging, writes:

"Growth habit, foliage and bloom are all of equal importance to me. The plant form is very important; it must be a symmetrical grower.

"Foliage must have a good color, with no tendency for the lower leaves to turn yellow; strong petioles, with large enough space between leaves for buds to emerge; glossy foliage that remains pretty, whether grown in natural light or under fluorescent light.

"Bloom must be large and unusual, many blooms to a stalk opening at the same time. Good foliage without good blooms is still an uninteresting plant to me. A good plant must be a prolific bloomer.

"If the new seedling is similar to an older variety, it must be better than the existing variety. There are different ways in which it could be better — a better growing habit; or more easily propagated; or stronger flower stalks holding blooms higher above foliage; the blooms could be larger or longer-lasting (many single blooms drop too readily); or the new seedling could have better and more vibrant coloring in either foliage or bloom, or perhaps in both."

Mr. Don Wilson of Wilson Brothers, Indiana, is doing some remarkably good hybridizing, and he is getting some nice new varieties. In addition to development in foliage (for instance, his Red Man or Strawberry Red with its strawberry-like leaf), one of Mr. Wilson's major goals is two stems of bloom to the leaf. He sends this letter:

"Out of thousands of seedlings, we may find only one worthwhile; however, once I did find two very good ones in less than a hundred. I set aside seedlings for three specific purposes — a good marketable variety, a seedling with some characteristic which I want to carry on in my hybridizing work; and of course novelties. Novelties may not have all good characteristics but have appeal and for that reason salability; and

some novelties can become regulars over a period of time through continued hybridizing and selection. The novelty can be an important step toward a truly different violet.

"I choose a good marketable variety according to vigor of plant; something different (which is really getting tough); lots of blooms per stem with good color and form; and two stems of bloom per leaf is becoming possible — it is on the way. There must be a good symmetrical habit of growth with the free-flowering stems up over — now down in — the foliage; and blooms must be large.

"The seedlings I set aside for my work must have most of these same characteristics of course, but they can be very poor in some respects and yet have the unusual characteristic I want to carry on and get into a really good plant. Too often the hybridizer gets impatient and releases some without carrying them on through another cross or two; I am sorry I released Red Man for that very reason, the very next cross brought me a far superior variety which I hope to have ready for next year.

"Also, the hybridizer should keep in mind public demand and try to produce some types or color combinations the violet enthusiast wants.

"I hope I have been able to give some usable suggestions. I have been very happy to give such information as comes to me at this moment, it has been a pleasure. And I send you a new blossom of a seedling that has just come into bloom for me, a single white with a purple banding around each petal — what it will do remains to be seen."

I think it is a wonderful thing that these busy people have taken time away from their work to write these helpful letters.

Now let us give a brief summary of the most important points to keep in mind when judging your seedling:

1. Sturdy, vigorous, symmetrical growth.
2. Large distinctive blooms in profusion.
3. Attractive foliage of good substance, good texture and good sheen, able to take the heat of summer without drooping and to age without becoming yellow, with strong petioles neither too long nor too short.
4. Different from any variety already on the market.
5. If similar to an existing variety, there must be definite improvement over that variety.
6. It must propagate readily and generously.
7. If you have commercial ambitions for it, it must be a good shipper. end

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House Grown Plants Are Easy To Grow

Joy Hutson, Luton, Beds., England ..

"How are you progressing with your Saint-paulias, now that you no longer have a greenhouse?" That is a question I am often asked. "Do you find them more difficult to grow in the house?"

My answer is "No." As long as you understand their needs, they are not difficult, but they are temperamental enough to make them a challenge. I find, however, that they are considerably slower from seedling to blooming period than when they are grown in a greenhouse, but you would expect this.

I have several healthy seedlings and plants growing under normal house conditions which means, of course, grown under varied temperatures. Fortunately for all house plants the winter has been a mild one, and we have not experienced frost in any of the unheated rooms. During last November most of the African violets were taken from the plant room at the top of the house to the breakfast room where they get warmth and plenty of light as the window is a large one. In this room temperatures varied from forty-nine degrees to eighty-four degrees, and I have allowed the plants to enjoy the full sunshine.

Mrs. Hutson is a pioneer grower of African violets and was the first president of our branch in England. — Editor.

April was a very warm and sunny month, and hit the headlines in all our daily papers, "June in April." For several days the temperature rose to eighty-four degrees. May is now here and as the days lengthen and the sun gets warmer, the plants are beginning to grow rapidly. I have to be very careful not to forget to place sheets of tissue paper between the windows and the plants to prevent the leaves from burning.

From October to April the plants have been kept on the dry side, never being watered unless they asked for it. If the leaves appeared limp to the touch, then water was needed. I usually tell by lifting the pot. If it feels light I water, but if it feels heavy I leave well enough alone.

I am now feeding some of my plants with liquid soot and horse manure, alternately every fourteen days. I use one tablespoonful of weathered soot to two gallons of warm water. Mix this as you would a batter pudding, adding a little water to the soot whilst stirring briskly. You can add some liquid manure to this, but I prefer to use each separately.

Top row, Double Sea Girl, Double Neptune. Center, Bedfordshire Beauty. Bottom row, Silver Lining, Ring O' Roses.



At the moment I am experimenting with various fertilizers, mixtures consisting of superphosphates, sulphate of potash and sulphate of ammonia. These three major elements combined together make a complete fertilizer.

All the Saintpaulias were put into different soils and a little coal dust was added to the mixtures. In 1954 I found, or thought that I did, that this added depth of colour to some blooms, and I am anxious to compare again this year those blooms which had the coal dust added to their compost with those without the coal dust.

Finding the right soil, or compost, gives particular pleasure to me, and I have tried out dozens of mixtures, all with good results, so I now use the one which is the least trouble and can either be bought at the shop or nursery, or easily mixed at home. This is the John Innes compost, to which I add just a little more peat. For seed sowing and pricking out, the John Innes formula is:

- 2 parts (by bulk) of sterilized loam
- 1 part rather coarse, dust-free peat
- 1 part sharp sand

To these are added $1\frac{1}{2}$ ounces superphosphate and $\frac{3}{4}$ ths an ounce of ground chalk.

This compost should be used within eight weeks of being mixed.

I mix the loam, peat and sand together, and only add the superphosphate and chalk when I am ready to use the compost.

For the potting compost:

- 7 parts loam, 3 parts peat and 2 parts sand.

To each bushel of compost add $\frac{1}{4}$ pound of John Innes base fertilizer and $\frac{3}{4}$ ths an ounce of ground chalk. (64 pints are equal to 1 bushel or 80 pounds). The John Innes base fertilizer can be purchased ready mixed, or prepared by mixing 2 parts (by weight) of $\frac{1}{8}$ grist hoof and horn (13 percent nitrogen).

2 parts superphosphate (18 percent phosphoric acid)

- 1 part sulphate of potash (48 percent potash)

For the second and subsequent pottings, the quantities of John Innes base and chalk can be doubled.

I must confess that I get better plants and larger blooms if I do not sterilize the loam, but experience has taught me that it is far better to heat the soil than to lose a plant.

There are several ways of sterilizing the soil: (1) Baking in the oven, (2) Pouring boiling water over it, or (3) Steaming.

I usually bake mine in an old meat tin for about one hour, fierce heat, or until the loam is too hot to touch.

To summarize:

Use a good loose potting soil, (1) Furnish drainage, (2) Give plenty of light plus a little

AMBLER AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY

Violet Engle, Willow Grove, Pennsylvania

Through the efforts of Mrs. Carolyn Pierson, founder and first president of our society, we have grown from a few women to a group of forty. In November we will celebrate our fifth anniversary.

This year we were honored to be asked to exhibit in the Philadelphia Flower Show, and over one hundred African violets were exhibited by two of our members. Our club has also exhibited at the Ambler Colony Club Annual Flower Show in Ambler, Pennsylvania, and at the Annual Daffodil Show in Norristown, Pennsylvania.

During the summer months we meet at members' homes for outdoor meetings, at the same time having the opportunity to see how our members grow their plants.

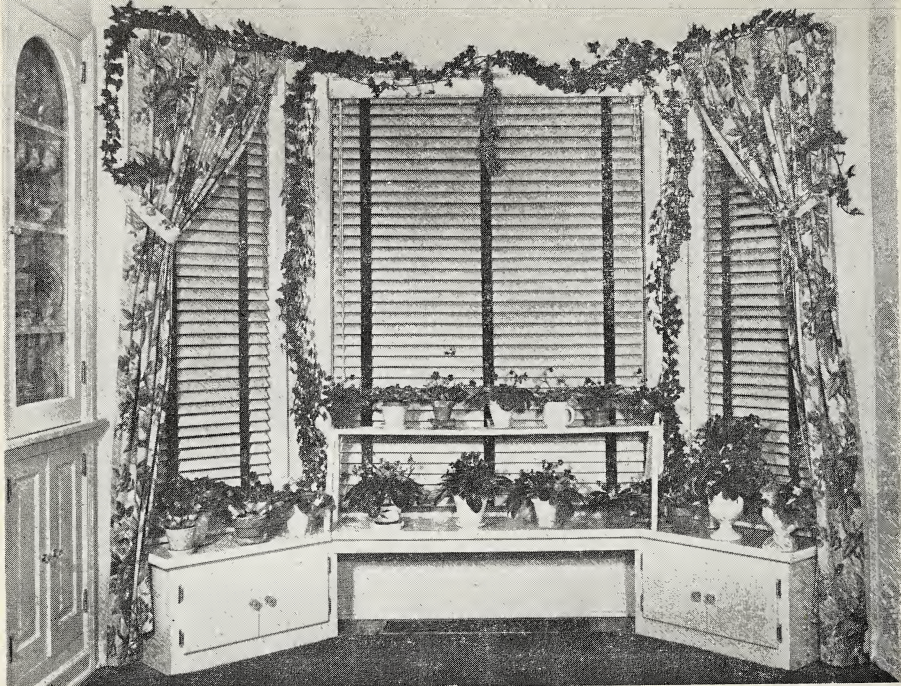
Our meetings are planned to feature something interesting each month. Films from the National Society are used, also slides taken by our members; members show us how they propagate their plants; monthly reports were given on the progress of a seed project undertaken by several members; another project on which monthly reports was made was the testing of several types of fertilizer; then we have a yearly scrap book contest, a private show at one of the meetings, and this year we had an exhibit which was judged. Our hand craft table consisted of many clever aprons featuring African violets as the theme. Each month three door prizes of named variety African violets are given. At the conclusion of each business meeting, refreshments are served and a social hour is enjoyed by all.

Our society is open to anyone interested in African violets, our meetings are held on the fourth Monday evening of each month all year through. end

early spring sunshine, (3) Furnish humidity by standing small bowls of water near the plants, (4) Keep on the dry side if the temperature is low. The higher the temperature the more moisture the plants require.

Syringe leaves occasionally with warm water, being careful not to let the moisture settle in the crowns. Other good practices are: (1) Provide ventilation, (2) Take off damaged leaves and flowers, (3) Watch for insects and diseases. Here are some things not to do: (1) Don't overpot, (2) Don't pot too tightly, (3) Don't pamper the plants.

Few of us are successful in growing these plants properly the first time. If this happens to you, don't give up but try again and again. end



Miss Littig's window was attractively planned for her plants.

IN A BAY WINDOW

Lauretta L. Littig, Davenport, Iowa

One of my most pleasant memories of our farm home when I was a little girl is the big south bay window in the living room. My mother always had it filled with geraniums and other blooming plants. When we moved to town and had no bay window we forgot all about it.

Years later when my sister and I were left alone we bought our present little bungalow. The first thing that attracted our attention was the bay window in the east end of the dinette. At that time I had only a few African violets and gloxinias which I put on a table in front of the south living room windows. Later, when the violets increased, I realized that I must find more space for them. The bay window seemed ideal, but these windows are very low, only fifteen inches from the floor. I could not picture my high table stretched across the bay, so I got out a pencil and paper and tried to figure out something else. I took my idea to a carpenter, and this is what he made.

In front of each of the side windows he built a cabinet with four sides and a top and bottom. I did not want it fastened to the wall as I wanted

to be able to move it. These cabinets are twenty-five inches wide and eleven inches deep. If I had it to do again, I would make them much deeper. Another board was fastened on the top of the cabinet, one and one-half inches shorter across the front, but the same width as the cabinet across the back, which tapered the sides off to nothing in the back. This made a rest for the shelf across the center window. This shelf is forty-three inches across the front and fifty-six inches across the back. The top is flush with the boards fastened on the cabinet tops and fits snugly against the wall. Although the center window shelf fits firmly on the rests, to make it more secure I fastened a little hook at the front edge of the cabinet and hooked it to the under edge of the center window shelf. There is a drop board two inches wide across the front of the shelf so the hooks do not show. Around the outer edge of the cabinets and shelf is a little molding which gives a nice finish. On the front of the cabinets are two little doors with glass knobs. I painted the cabinets white to match our woodwork. I use white plastic place mats, cut to fit, to protect the top.

I had always wanted a separate place for my flower and garden magazines and that is what I use these cabinets for. I would have liked a cabinet over the center also, but we have a cold air register there and could not close it up.

This place was soon crowded with violets and more shelves were needed. Our window casings are too narrow to fasten shelves to, also have Venetian blinds which are lowered and raised every day on account of the early sun coming in, so we had to plan something else. We had a narrow stand made, just wide enough for one row of plants, over the center window shelf. To make it steady I had two legs at each end flared at the bottom, the front ones fitting just inside the molding and the back ones at the rear of the shelf. I later had stands made over the cabinets.

At each side of the center window I have ivy which grows up the side of the middle window, crosses at the top and comes down the outer sides of the end windows. I fastened white cup hooks along the window casings and across the top to hold the vines. Every so often we take down the vines and wash them in the sink.

My violets were soon crowded again, so now I have violets in all the rooms and in the basement under fluorescent lights. end

EDUCATIONAL EXHIBIT

Marie Dannemiller, Barbarton, Ohio

Have you ever found a plant laden with nematodes, cancerous-like growths, or something else you wish you could keep to show to others? I have used formaldehyde for several years for this purpose, and it adds the "Seeing is believing" interest that no amount of just telling can do.

First, take off the leaves as they do not keep well, then wash all the soil from the roots, dry on paper towels, and then place in a jar just large enough to hold the plant, and cover with formaldehyde. Leave a small space between the solution and lid; then fasten the lid securely. You now have an exhibit for your show that is really worth while.

Years ago I had plants damaged by mite, that were hard and thickened in the center. It would be worth a try to see if such damage could be preserved. I doubt that the grey hairy-appearing leaves would keep. end

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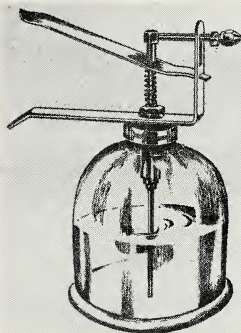
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SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT FOR
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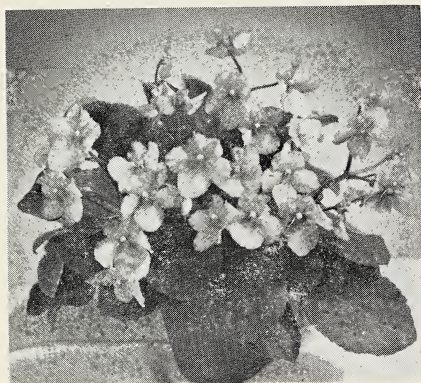
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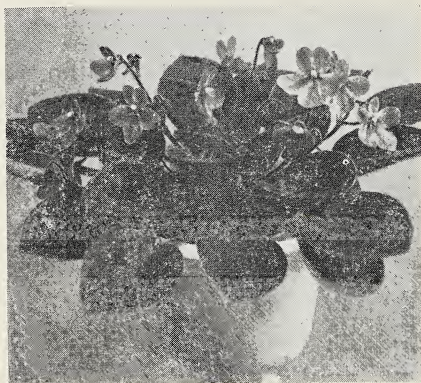
Oxford, Maryland

Some Of The New Introductions For '58

THIS IS A PREVIEW OF EIGHT OF THE NEW VARIETIES YOU WILL SOON BE SEEING AND READING ABOUT IN THE COMING MONTHS.



SPOTLIGHT—The light pink flower has a center area that is a clear cerise red. It is most outstanding and different and will just naturally stand out in any collection. Introduced by Fischer's Greenhouses, Linwood, New Jersey.

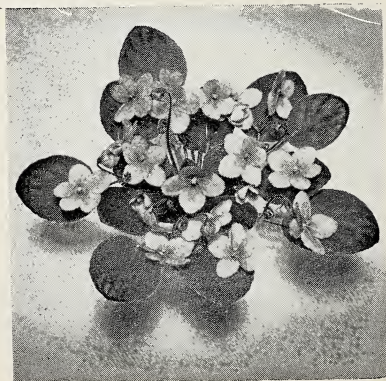


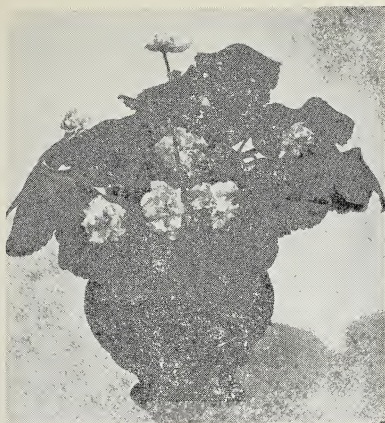
TORCHY—The bloom is medium sized and a really brilliant color, a real break towards the red shades. Foliage is dark with a red reverse. Introduced by Richter's Greenhouse, Hammond, Indiana.

MOLLY PRICHARD—This plant has large full double red and white blossoms over attractive quilted foliage. Introduced by R. A. Brown and Sons Company, Newnan, Georgia.



RED GLOW—A lush raspberry shade with a deeper glow radiating from center. Blooms in profusion, medium green, pointed leaf, red flushed back. Introduced by Tinari Greenhouses, Bethayres, Pennsylvania.





SMUGSY WUGSY—A shaded pink flower with very interesting shaped flower petals. It is fully double with fluted flower petals that make it different and very effective. There are about five flowers per stem. Foliage is wavy. Originated by R. G. Baxter; introduced by Mary Meeds, The Select Violet House, Youngstown, Ohio.

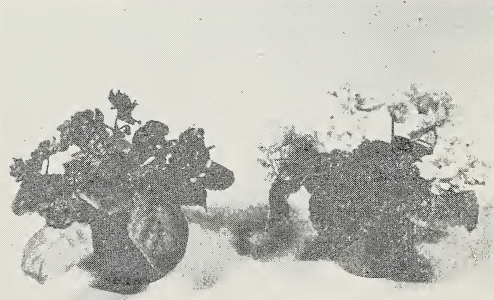


SALEM PETUNIA #3—Medium dark green foliage with a light green on the underside. It is of medium texture and not a Supreme type. Blossoms are a light lavender-orchid with dark lavender-orchid center markings, sometimes rayed toward the outer end of petal. Most of the blossoms have no stamens, but, when properly pollinated, will produce seed. Introduced by Oppen Greenhouse, Salem, Oregon.

CONSTANT BEAUTY—Lettuce leaf type foliage reminding one of a crested begonia; bubbly, quilted, very fluted around the edge, and a glowing wine red underneath. Blooms are a soft medium powdery blue with silvery shadings on the edges. Originated by Sophie Baker; introduced by Arndt's Floral Garden, Troutdale, Oregon.



SPIC and SPAN—A vigorous, very free blooming, lovely pair. Spic is a star double, medium blue; and Span is a star double medium pink. Introduced by Lyndon Lyon, Dolgeville, N. Y.



MITES AND SODIUM SELENATE

PART 3

Neil C. Miller, Penns Grove, N. J.

SODIUM SELENATE TREATMENT COMPARED WITH SPRAYING

The poisonous nature of sodium selenate has been so thoroughly emphasized (and rightly so) that many people think they would prefer to use some less poisonous material for mite control. In effect this means a spray. There are a number of sprays on the market (NNOR, Dimite and Optox, to mention some old favorites, and Malathion as a relatively new one) which have been widely used and have given good service. When properly and persistently applied they will give good control of mites. It is in achieving proper and persistent application that trouble or inadequacy arises.

Sprays must be made to the correct strength and the base liquid must be thoroughly dissolved. It is easy to be careless on this point and many people have gotten into trouble thereby, the spray solution, either too strong or incompletely dissolved, when sprayed onto the plant causes streaking or spotting of leaves and blossoms.

All sprays leave some residue on the leaves. This is ordinarily not troublesome but occasionally causes plants to get dusty or dirty sooner than they would otherwise.

Spraying is always more or less of a mess, involving mixing the solution, filling a sprayer, moving the plants or protecting adjacent areas, cleaning the sprayer, etc. A considerable amount of just plain physical labor is also involved.

Some sprays, particularly those containing Malathion, are rather odoriferous, and their use in a house is likely to be evident for several days afterwards.

In contrasting spraying with sodium selenate treatment similarities and dissimilarities can be immediately noted. A similarity is that sodium selenate also must be properly made up, and carelessness here is more likely to result in damage to the plants than carelessness in making up sprays. Dissimilarities are that selenate treatment leaves no residue on the plant leaves, involves only slightly more messing (the exact measuring of the solution) than simple watering, and is free of odor.

It is in the method of kill that sprays and selenate differ. Sprays are generally stomach or contact poisons (or both) so they are effective only if they actually touch the insects or are eaten by them. Mites grow deep in the growing crowns of the plant, where leaflets and buds are tightly in contact, and sprays may not actually penetrate

to where they are. Mites that the spray does not contact are not killed, and survive to continue and perpetuate the infestation. Where infestation is known to have existed spraying must be done repetitively in order to keep mites under control, and even after repeated spray application there is no certainty that all mites have been eradicated. As Harriet F. Lawton has pointed out in several excellent articles in this Magazine, in order to control mites by spraying it is necessary "to spray, and spray, and spray." This can add up to a lot of work and inconvenience.

When a spray has a fumigant effect, as with Malathion, insect kill is much better, but repetitive application may still be necessary.

Sodium selenate is a systemic poison. It is picked up by the plant roots and enters the sap stream of the plants. Once the concentration of selenate in the sap stream has reached the mite-toxic level any mites that ingest the sap are immediately killed. The deeper they are in the crown of the plant the sooner they die. There is no question of penetration to the mites, the killing material is present in every mouthful of food they take.

Sprays have a short period of effectiveness, they either kill now or they don't kill at all. Selenate, once it has become present in the plant sap stream, is continuously effective until the concentration falls below the mite-toxic level. Thus selenate provides a residual protective effect that is totally lacking with sprays. Selenate treated plants are infestation-resistant for several months. The same amount of protection can be obtained from sprays only by repeated application. This is one of the greatest advantages of selenate, it protects the plants against infestation for months should an infected plant be placed among them.

USE ON OTHER PLANTS

Back in the "early days" of sodium selenate usage on African violets (1949-1952) many people wrote asking if it could be used on other house plants or greenhouse plants. No definite information was available, so the only answer that could be given was the suggestion to try it on an experimental basis and observe the effect. A number of these did so experiment and reported their results. Many letters were received telling of satisfactory experience with a wide variety of greenhouse plants from begonia to wandering Jew. Although the letters were frequently enthusiastic they generally did not give sufficient details of treatment procedure, insects eradicated, or undesirable side effects to permit generalizations to be made.

In recent years there has been less correspondence of this kind, probably because the amount of routine correspondence has made it impossible to invite more. Every once in a while, however, someone orders selenate, notes that they

use it on some plant other than African violets and asks why instructions for use on other house plants are not included.

Thus the possibility exists that selenate could be used effectively on many other house and greenhouse plants.

The United States Department of Agriculture does not accept customer experience of this kind as a basis for label statements so does not permit any general claims for broad effectiveness to appear on the package or instruction sheet. This is probably all to the good, the fact that sodium selenate is poisonous has been dinned into African violet growers from the very beginning with the result that it is treated by them with proper respect. Other plant growing groups might not acquire this information quickly enough, and might thereby endanger some of their people.

NOT A SOIL INSECTICIDE

The fact that sodium selenate is supplied to the plant by being watered into the soil has given rise to a widespread misconception concerning its value. Many people assume from this fact that it is of value against the pests of African violets that live in soil, principally nematodes, symphyllids and springtails. Actually, there is some basis in fact for the belief because, prior to the discovery of the organic phosphates, sodium selenate had given some degree of nematode control on certain experimental plants. The poisonous nature of sodium selenate precluded complete evaluation because it could have no practical value in protection of food crops.

Sodium selenate solutions, when applied to infested soil in which African violets are growing may give some kill of nematodes, symphyllids, springtails, or larva of other pests, but it gives neither thorough nor lasting protection. Any or all of these pests can, and do, survive routine selenate treatment.

Failure of selenate to control pests that feed on plant roots may result from the fact that selenate is quickly transported to the leafy portions of the plant hence may never be present in the roots in pest-killing concentrations. This could well be the reason for its ineffectiveness against nematodes and symphyllids. Failure against the pests that ordinarily feed on decaying organic matter in the soil (springtails, black fly larva, etc.) probably simply reflects the fact that their food does not absorb selenate.

Whatever the actual reasons, the general experience of African violet growers is that sodium selenate is of no practical value against pests that live in the soil.

USE AGAINST OTHER FOLIAGE INSECTS

The original work at Ohio State, and later at Battelle Memorial Institute, developed the fact that sodium selenate was effective against such foliage insects as mites, aphids, leaf nematodes and midge on several greenhouse crops, partic-

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ularly chrysanthemums and carnations. Dr. Blauvelt extended the known effectiveness to include mites on African violets.

Although the principal use of selenate on African violets is in eradication of mites, it also has some utility against the other foliage insects, aphids, thrips, and mealy bugs. Compared to mites, the incidence of these pests is small so that clear knowledge of the practical aspects of selenate effectiveness and limitations has not emerged. General experience has been that it clears out aphids at concentrations lower than those required to kill mites.

In the fall of 1954 there were a considerable number of cases of thrip attack on African violets, probably related to the unusually dry weather conditions over many parts of the country which dried and hardened natural outdoor plants and may have driven the thrips indoors. A goodly portion of the people who used sodium selenate against the thrips reported that they were successful, that the thrips disappeared shortly after application of the selenate.

For mealybugs the picture is not so good. Once an infestation is established sodium selenate can't stop it, the amount of selenate required to kill the mealybugs is just about the maximum amount the plants will take. It is a question of which dies first, the mealybugs or the plants, and quite frequently the bugs are the survivors.

Fortunately, thrips, aphids, and mealybugs, are all such infrequent pests of African violets

that their control is not often a pressing problem. Sodium selenate, applied originally as a mite preventive or cure, seems able to prevent infestations of these pests from developing. In other words, plants that have been selenate treated appear to be just as resistant to thrip, aphid and mealybug infestation as they are to mite infestation.

COMBINATION OF SPRAYING AND SELENATE TREATMENT

A question frequently asked is whether spraying and selenate treatment can be combined and whether there is any advantage in doing so.

So far as straight mechanics of application is concerned the answer is "Yes." Spraying and selenate treatment can be combined; if neither would hurt the plants when applied individually they would not hurt them when applied together. The real question is whether there is any advantage obtained and whether it is worth what it costs.

Sprays act immediately and give whatever kill they are going to give within a few hours, or a day or two at most. Selenate is slower, it probably gives no kill at all for several days and probably no appreciable kill for a week or more. Combination of spraying and selenate application thus gives both immediate and sustained kill of infestants. It starts the plants on the road to recovery a week or more sooner.

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Also see these —

HER GRACE — Deep rose-pink full double held high above regal girl foliage.

RENEE — Medium blue double, very profuse bloom, lovely open girl foliage.

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Whether this is really worthwhile is largely a matter of personal preference. The plants have already been infested for weeks or months and a week or so more before they are completely rid of pests won't make much difference. If your viewpoint is one of straight practicality spraying before selenation is not worth what it costs in materials and effort.

There are, however, numerous cases where discovery of infestation leads to a feeling akin to panic: The bugs are here so they must be gotten rid of as soon as possible and at any cost. In these cases spraying for immediate kill gives a satisfaction that can not be gotten from selenate treatment alone.

So far as actually being worthwhile in recovery of dollars-and-cents invested or in labor involved, spraying in combination with selenate treatment is of very doubtful value. So far as personal satisfaction in feeling that you are doing everything you possibly can do, spraying before selenation is definitely worthwhile.

This is another example of a situation which occurs so frequently in African violet growing: The general rule may say one thing, what is best in your case may be far different.

USE OF MASKS AND GLOVES

The fact that selenate is poisonous leads directly to the question whether masks and rubber gloves should be worn while working with it.

As explained earlier in this article, selenate, in order to do harm to user, family, or pets, must enter the body in one of three ways, by being breathed, by being absorbed through the skin or by being swallowed.

Masks protect against poisons being taken in by breathing (although the methods of protection differ with type of mask). Rubber gloves protect against absorption through the skin of hands or forearms. Neither masks nor gloves give any real protection against swallowing.

Sodium selenate does not give off fumes and is never applied (to African violets, at least) as a spray. So there is nothing for a mask to do in protecting the user.

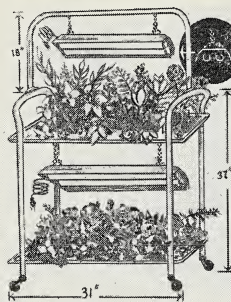
Selenate is generally used as pre-weighed capsules from which treatment solutions of the desired strength can be readily made without touching the material at all. The method of application, giving a measured quantity to each plant, also does not involve any necessary contact of the hands with the solution. If some is dribbled onto the fingers during measurement there is generally a sink handy where it can immediately be washed off. Short-period contact (seconds or a few minutes) can do no harm, as skin absorption in this interval would be infinitesimal. So there is no real necessity for wearing rubber gloves.

There is thus no basic reason for wearing either a mask or rubber gloves while applying sodium selenate solutions to African violets.

While there is no physical reason for wearing mask and gloves there may be a good psychological reason. Both of these are cumbersome and give some measure of discomfort or inconvenience. They are thus a reminder that a potentially dangerous material is being handled. That fact should never be forgotten while working with sodium selenate.

To be continued

"AREALITE" FLOWER CART with fluorescent light fixtures



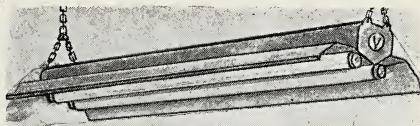
Aluminum finish rust resistant Cart for your AFRICAN VIOLET PLANTS, with adjustable FLUORESCENT LIGHTS.

Cart is on casters, can easily be rolled from room to room, attractive enough for one's living room; two spacious (12" x 31") aluminum no drip rolled edge trays 20 1/2" apart to allow for proper adjustment of lights above plants.

Each fluorescent light fixture is complete with cord, plug, pull switch, chain and two — 20 Watt 24" long fluorescent tubes producing from 100 to 180 foot candles, according to adjustment of chain.

Cart (as shown here) with two fluorescent light fixtures\$42.50*

Cart with two trays and one lower fluorescent light fixture\$30.00*



***\$12.50**

4 ft. long fixture with two — 40 Watt bulbs, switch, 5 ft. cord and plug.

Above fixture available with

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If two sockets for 25 Watt incandescent bulbs are desired, (these are installed between the two fluorescent bulbs) add \$3.00.

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Growing African violets in troughs produces outstanding plants for Mr. Nutt.

PLANTING AFRICAN VIOLETS IN TROUGHS

H. E. Nutt, Leicester, England

For two years I have experimented with this idea, which I felt was the natural habitat of the plant, and experience has proved beyond doubt that the growth of the plant is quicker and the labour saved in watering is considerable.

On the staging of the conservatory I use zinc troughs, each approximately 30" x 30" and about 2½" deep, and I had small holes drilled in the bottom for slight drainage.

I make a mixture of good loam with a little concentrated powder and cover the troughs about 1½" to 2" deep. I then build up to the top with a very good quality pulverized peat.

On the edge of the staging I have a long narrow trough about 30" x 2" in which I grow an edging of "Selaginella" (S. Browni). This gives a very pleasing effect and saves breaking off the leaves when leaning over to reach the back of the staging.

I plant healthy seedlings in the early Spring, keeping each colour or variety in a row across the staging. The rows are approximately 10" apart according to the variety and I find in the Spring that the root growth is very rapid as it has complete freedom and I am sure it is much quicker and better than in pots.

When I plant I dig a small hole the size of a 3" pot and again fill this with loam and then build up with peat around the stem of the plant. Finally I top dress the whole of the staging with a fine charcoal about ⅜" dia. as I find this helps to keep the peat sweet.

Watering has to be carefully done and I have solved this problem by using one of my wife's small domestic plastic funnels. It is planted right to the bottom of the staging between the rows to make the roots grow outwards and to save the risk of stem rot. In July the whole staging is one mass of leaves and flowers and the funnel idea proves most useful at this point for watering and I estimate that it takes about a third of the time necessary for watering pot grown plants.

I have approximately one hundred plants on each staging and, as I do not like very large plants for a second and third year, I replant each Spring and change the colour arrangement, adding any new colours.

The most important hint I can give to anyone wishing to try this method is not to overwater, particularly in the Summer. This year, with a very cold and wet August, I found that stem rot developed in one selection and this has taught

me a very good lesson about care with watering.

In the early growth of the plants I spray with a very fine unit adding a little of a new liquid artificial seaweed, as I find that the plants feed through the leaf most effectively. However I discontinue this immediately the flowers begin to form, since it has a tendency to slightly discolour the petals of the flower.

Early in October I severely prune the staging and I now have a second crop of bloom, which I am sure will carry on into the New Year. Then about March I shall replant with the new seedlings and I can assure you that I get a lot of fun with this change-over.

I am convinced that this method of growing African violets is the closest to their original home and I have found that the roots intertwine one into the other although ten inches apart. The whole effect is more pleasing than my original idea of growing them in 3" and 4" pots.

I have had many visitors this Summer and they have all been amazed at the wonderful spectacle of colour both from the breakfast room and in the conservatory itself.

Any one who has the facilities for making the troughs and the patience to try this experiment will, I am sure, be rewarded by the display and what is most important find a great saving in watering and at the same time obtain better plants. end

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POTTING BABY PLANTS

Marie Dannemiller, Barberton, Ohio

Acting on the theory that small things do best in small areas, I use one and one-quarter inch pots for my baby plants, which cuts down the hazard of over-watering.

A piece of broken pot, curved side up, is placed over the drainage hole; enough potting mixture to reach the lower roots of the little plant is added; then the roots are spread out, and finally the pot is filled almost to the top. I do my potting at an old bench with a vise, and tapping the pot sharply on the vise settles the mix around the roots.

The pots are set in a pan of warm water and left until thoroughly moistened.

When a larger pot is needed, I use a long nail and push the plant up. It takes only a minute to set it in a larger pot and fill around it with the growing medium. end

WINDOVER FLOWER POTS



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Squatty	Our Customers Say, "The Best I have ever seen!"
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5 in. 6 for 2.20	Any shipping breakage replaced unless sent insured.
6 in. 4 for 2.20	Clay Flower Pots in Color baked-on enamel. Following sizes only:
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3 in. 14 for \$2.20	3" semi-squatty 10 for \$2.20
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5 1/2 in. 5 for 2.20	Black Plastic Pot Saucers
6 in. 4 for 2.20	2 1/2" 18 for \$1.70
Standard	
1 1/2 in. 40 for \$2.20	3" 14 for \$1.80
1 3/4 in. 36 for 2.20	4" 10 for \$1.85
2 in. 30 for 2.20	5" 6 for \$1.50
2 1/4 in. 24 for 2.20	
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4 in. 9 for 2.20	

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Made especially for African Violets with flaky leaf-mold (mostly oak) plus woodland top-soil, crushed sandstone, peat moss, woodashes, bone meal, super-phosphate and charcoal. Will not pack. Sterilized with LARVACIDE to eliminate nematodes and other soil-borne troubles. Write for prices on larger quantities.

4 lbs. \$1.15 9 lbs. \$2.25 13 lbs. \$2.85
COARSE VERMICULITE preferred by many growers over the finer Terra-Lite for rooting leaves.

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LIFETIME WHITE PLASTIC POT LABELS, 4 1/2": 75 for \$1.00 100 for \$1.25 500 for \$5.50

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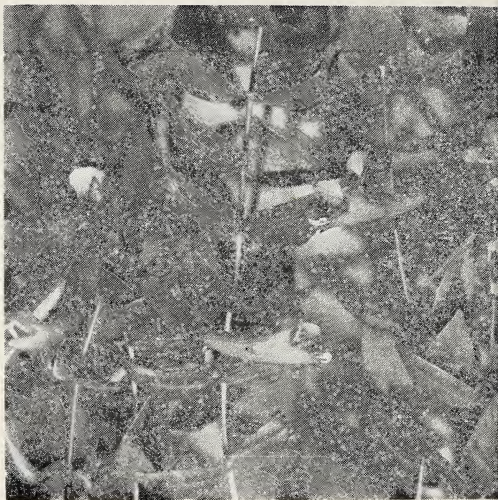
Evansville, Indiana

Gesneriads-Companion Plants for African Violets

Paul Arnold, Binghamton, New York

AESCHYNANTHUS PULCHER

(right)
AESCHYNANTHUS PULCHER has been transported to the western world from the tropics of Java. It has been grown for more than a century, particularly in European conservatories, either under the correct name or the now discarded synonym *Trichosporum pulchrum*. The Latin name means The Handsome Aeschynanthus, and it has been winning show prizes since June 1846 when *Aeschynanthus pulcher* was awarded a silver medal at Chiswick Gardens in England, where it was first exhibited. This tropical trailing plant has small, smooth, dark green leaves on flexible stems which may extend for thirty inches. The flowers are brilliant scarlet, with yellow throats and occur upright in clusters near the ends of the stems. The bell-shaped calyx, from which the brilliant tube emerges, is bright green at first, changing to a light brown as the flower ages. Because it will bloom when grown with relatively little light, and because the succession of flowers covers a period of about two months, *Aeschynanthus pulcher* is a satisfying subject for growing indoors near a south or east window.



KOELLIKERIA ERINOIDES

(left)

KOELLIKERIA ERINOIDES is a tiny plant to join *Sinningia pusilla*, the dwarf "Gloxinia," and *Saintpaulia shumensis*, the tiny new "African Violet" species, in a collection of truly miniature Gesneriad plants. Once named *Achimenes argyrostigma*, this plant grows from *Achimenes*-like scaly rhizomes underground, which resemble tiny, white pine cones. The leaves form a rosette close to the soil and are flecked with silver on a brilliant green ground, looking exactly as if someone had been painting nearby with aluminum paint, which spattered onto the plant. The flowers are borne alternately on a spike, the white, two-lipped corollas enlivened by a purple throat. The plant goes dormant in late summer only to resume growth again in early spring. Most growers store the tiny rhizomes in the pot, undisturbed until spring, when they are sifted out of the loose, humusy soil and restarted. *Koellikeria erinoides* gives its best performance when grown only one plant to a three or four inch pot, but the rhizomes multiply four or five to one each season.





COLUMNNEA TULAE

COLUMNNEA TULAE is a trailing plant with soft green leaves, rather flexible, trailing stems about a foot long or less, and long, narrow dragon's mouth flowers of bright yellow color. Dealers' lists usually show the plant as *tulae* var. *flava* as if the original was of another color, but no literature has been located which refers to any other color. The plant is very free flowering in a hanging basket filled with friable, rapidly draining moss or compost suitable for plants which grow naturally on trees and rocks. *Columnnea tulae* looks well with the stems trained upright on a trellis, which has the advantage of making the pale yellow flowers more strikingly visible.



COLUMNNEA MAGNIFICA

COLUMNNEA MAGNIFICA may not be the correct name of this very pretty and most accommodating little plant, but that is the name under which it is offered today by dealers in the United States. The true *Columnnea magnifica* of Professor Anders Oersted was described as a shrub. This one has thin, trailing stems, which branch readily, and which have the happy faculty of producing flowers when the stems are only a few inches long. The bright orange flowers are very showy against the bright green of the soft, velvety leaves. An attractive plant, compact and easy to grow in the home.



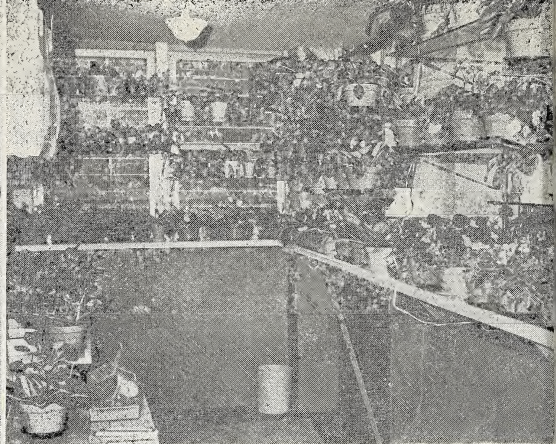
COLUMNNEA NICARAGUENSIS

(left)

C O L U M N E A N I C A R A G U E N S I S grows near the Atlantic Coast in that country and in Panama. An epiphyte, as are all *Columnneas*, this one is tolerant of soil conditions and may be grown in a pot like a *Geranium*. The stiff, trailing stems are better trained upright on bamboo sticks or a trellis, which will confine the sprawling habit of the plant. The bright red flowers have a silky outside surface but the plant is not an abundant bloomer under household conditions.



Before — This is the space before the room was started.



After — Completed Miss Grice's painted yellow room was a most attractive place to grow plants.

THE VIOLETS GET A BRAND NEW HOME

When Miss Mary Hart Grice of Norfolk, Virginia, received a gift of an African violet three years ago, she had no idea that it would eventually lead her into a building project. Many plants were grown from leaves of Snow Prince, this original plant, and many other varieties have been added, until finally there were over two hundred plants.

At the beginning there was just one wooden

Miss Grice with one of her plants of White Madonna.



shelf in the bedroom, but as the collection grew four glass shelves were added, then the plants spread to the sewing room and the kitchen. They occupied so many places throughout the house that the family started objecting to lack of space for themselves, and it was necessary for Miss Grice to do something.

In looking around, her thoughts concentrated on the space under the back porch, which was

Rooting leaves in this vermiculite filled little greenhouse is not Miss Grice's regular method of propagating African violets. Leaves are rooted in water.



unfinished. One end was the finished entrance to the basement, the other end was dirt. This seemed to be too good a spot to waste, so excavation was begun to make a plant room. The floor and walls up to where the shelves begin are grey cement. The brick wall above is painted yellow, and the ceiling is of off-white sound proof blocks. The opposite side and end are glass jalousies. The room has green accents; there are fluffy rugs on the floor; and a worktable at one end holds dozens of plastic pots and other work implements.

There are ten shelves plus one continuous wooden one under the glass shelves; there are eight windows that open out; and cloth curtains hang outside to protect the violets from the hot sun for a few hours each day. An electric heater is used when necessary, and care is taken to have the room well ventilated.

Miss Grice starts her violets by rooting the leaves in water, then planting them in New Era African Violet Soil in small pots. Later on the plants are put into four inch pots, and may eventually be transplanted to five or five and a half inch pots. There they remain and flourish, and many have been awarded ribbons in shows.

LETTER FROM MRS. BUSH

Dear Friends:

We would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for the ribbons and awards we received at the Convention in Cincinnati. Our violets have brought us many thrills and experiences but this was one of the greatest.

Our thanks to the following: Alma Wright for her award of \$25.00 for the best miniature. The plant was Minneapolis. Davidson County Society of African Violet Clubs, Nashville, Tennessee, for their award of \$25.00 for the best single pink. Our entry was Uncle Bob. Stimulant Laboratories for their award of \$25.00 and a plaque in the white class. The plant was Ivory Queen. The Tube Craft Flora Cart Company for the wonderful cart. The winning plants were Purple Knight, Ivory Queen and Uncle Bob. The Popular Gardening Magazine for the sweepstakes award, a lovely sterling bowl. Last but not least, the African Violet Society of America for the award of merit and the honorable mention ribbons. The plants were Purple Knight and Uncle Bob. Also, our thanks to them for all the many other ribbons we received. The ribbons are proudly displayed in a glass case that Mr. Bush made for them.

Our thanks to one and all.

Sincerely,
Mrs. J. R. Bush

FROM IONANTHA TO PINK CLOUD

Mrs. F. Wade, London, England

Some years ago the wife of our local nurseryman asked me if I had seen their new plants. It was then that I saw my first Saintpaulia. I purchased a lovely plant in full bloom and put it in my glasshouse. When my son saw it he said, "Yes, very nice, but I have seen a white flowered one, and in America they have them in different colours." That was sufficient. My husband and I made inquiries and learned that there was an African Violet Society in America. In 1954 I became a member.

Since then I have purchased leaves and small plants. My first leaves came from Mrs. Joy Hutson, and later I purchased leaves and plants from Mr. Wicks of Nottingham. This year I purchased from Mrs. Gandy of Exeter, Devon, leaves of some of the newer varieties and now have small plants.

During this time I have learned a great deal from our magazine, and I offer my sincere thanks to the many members who wrote the articles. Naturally, like all beginners, I made many mistakes. My biggest was overpotting, especially the small plants. Now they are started in plastic egg cups. My husband pierces a small hole in them for drainage, and when the leaves reach the edge of the cups I transplant them into small plastic bowls. These are also pierced for drainage. They are about half an inch deeper and slightly wider than the egg cups. My larger plants are in three to four inch clay pots. I use lime chips over the drainage hole, and my soil is a John Innes mixture.

There is still much I have to learn. So far I have not mastered the art of keeping girl leaves from bunching up. Can any member pass on what you term, the know how? If so, I should be pleased to hear from her. One can gain a good knowledge of plants from a book, but a personal experience is of greater value to anyone still learning.

My plant of Pink Cloud was purchased last year at the end of the sales season from Mr. Wicks, and is now a nice plant with four flower sprays, one showing colour. end

JUNE ISSUE WILL BE LATE

The Members' Handbook must be mailed out with the June Magazine. So the June issue will be a little later than usual. — Editor

CORNELL PLASTIC PANEL GREENHOUSE

Reprinted with permission.

by **RAYMOND SHELDRAKE**,

Department of Vegetable Crops, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.

A LOW-COST plastic-panel greenhouse, tested under New York State weather conditions has proved extremely successful. Earlier research on plastic greenhouses was conducted at the University of Kentucky, with the aim of helping growers to raise out-of-season vegetables without the high cost of glass greenhouses. A preliminary report of this work prompted research men at Cornell to find out whether plastic houses would withstand the heavy snow and ice of New York winters.

A 96x16-foot greenhouse was built at about one-eighth the cost of a comparable glass greenhouse, or approximately \$800 as compared with \$6000. The structure has no foundation, and the roof is made up of sliding plastic panels, which not only solve the ventilation problem but also can be easily removed in summer, when hot sun would break down the plastic.

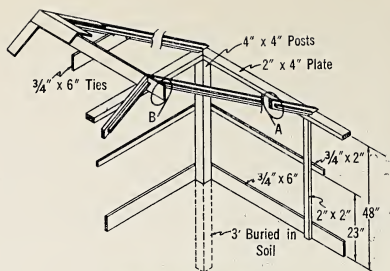
Seven plastics, including polyethylene, polyvinyl, and cellulose triacetate of various thicknesses, were tested for durability, light transmission, and cost. Also under test were two types of bottled-gas heaters, and various kinds of cements for bonding the plastic to the wood framework.

During the past winter and early spring, the experimental structure withstood winds up to 75 miles an hour and two heavy snowstorms, with depths of 18 and 12 inches. Although these storms heavily damaged fences, trees and power lines throughout the area, the greenhouse showed no sign of damage.

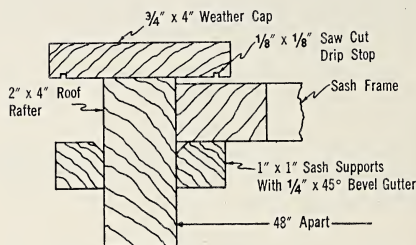
It was found also that very thin polyethylene material (.002 inch thick) held up just as well as heavier weights (.003 and .004 inch) and that there was no significant difference in light transmission between the various weights.

This type of greenhouse is not intended to completely replace the more durable glass structure, but it will serve as an inexpensive substitute for many growers. They will be able to raise such plants as tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, cabbage, and cauliflower, which many now buy for transplanting. Last spring Cornell students grew all types of vegetables and flowers in the experimental house, with excellent results.

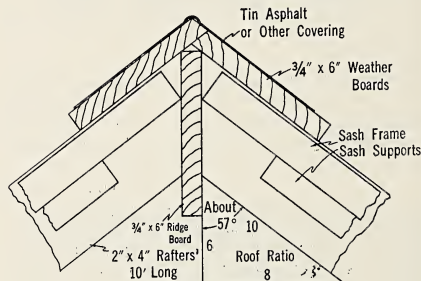
Plastic greenhouses can be erected in the fall and used for fall crops of tomatoes, or even flowers, followed by spring plants for field-setting. This fall a crop of tomatoes is being tried in the Cornell house. The plastic panels should be removed around the end of May to



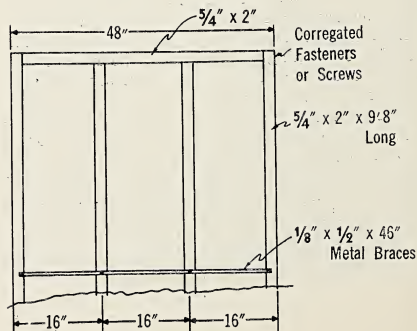
CORNER AND RIDGE DETAILS



SECTION AT "A"



SECTION AT "B"



SASH FRAME

prevent sun damage to the plastic. One man can accomplish this dismantling in a very short time.

So simple is the construction of this building that anyone with a basic knowledge of carpentry can easily build one.

The design of the Cornell plastic-panel greenhouse is such that it can be made any length, to suit growers' needs. The 4 x 4" posts were treated and sunk 3 feet in the soil. These could be set in concrete, but were not in the Cornell house.

The roof panels were constructed of 5/4" x 2" pine. This provides a sturdy light-weight panel that can easily be handled by one man. No. 10 screws, 3 inches long, were used to fasten the joints; corrugated fasteners, however, can be used in place of screws. Also, metal braces — 2 for each sash — were attached to keep the panel bars parallel.

Similar panels were planned for the side walls, but time did not permit their construction in this experimental house. Plastic stretched over the sides served fairly well, but is not as satisfactory as panels because it is difficult to get it tight enough when applied outdoors. The panels were covered in a warm room — the plastic expands when it is warm, and when installed, the colder outside air causes it to shrink and tighten.

Many bonding cements were tested in an attempt to find a perfect bond for each type of plastic. New materials are being released constantly, and many of them are under test at Ithaca. For this reason, recommendations will not be given for cements until trials are completed and results compared. Also, it is not absolutely necessary to use cement. Wood lath or plastic belting can be stapled or nailed over the plastic to secure it.

In constructing the panels for the Cornell house, the bonding cement was painted on the wood frame and the plastic applied to it. Because the cement is very sticky, it was difficult to get the plastic on smoothly and evenly. This problem was solved by thumbtacking the plastic to another panel and inverting it over a panel painted with the bonding compound. The tacks, which had been placed around the outer edges of the first panel, were then removed, and the plastic remained smoothly attached to the second panel.

One significant finding in this research was that two layers of plastic (one on the outside and one on the inside of the panel frame) had many advantages over a single layer. This provides a dead-air space between the two layers, which has a high insulation value. The inner surface of the double layers always felt much warmer than did that of the single layer. Another decided advantage of the double layers is the lack of condensation. The single-layer panels are cold and the resulting moisture condensation on the plastic noticeably reduces light transmission. By actual measurement, in the Cornell house, more light came through the double layers than through the single.

In general all of the polyethylene materials transmitted about the same amount of light. On a clear day, with an open-sky reading of 8400 foot-candles, approximately 7000 foot-candles came through, or about 83 per cent transmission. The polyvinyl material (.004") gave 5800 foot-candles, or about 70 per cent. It should not be concluded, however, that all polyvinyl is inferior to polyethylene in light transmission, because manufacturers are now producing polyvinyl with as much clarity as glass. This is a report on only the materials used in these tests. A grower could build a successful plastic house with either polyethylene or polyvinyl of .002, .003, or .004" thickness.

Heat for these greenhouses can be any conventional type of heating unit. In the Ithaca house, new types of heaters that burn LP (bottled gas) were tested. The most satisfactory of those tested was a 160,000 B.T.U. heater. This is fully automatic, and if properly used, it does an excellent job.

The Cornell plastic panel house offers many advantages over other types where the plastic is attached to the rafters:

- The panels can be covered in a warm room. Then these are taken out in the cold air, the plastic shrinks and becomes very tight. This solves the problem of the plastic flapping in the wind.
- The panels can be removed during the summer months. This will prolong the life of the plastic.
- Ventilation, which can be a problem, is easily provided by sliding down as many panels as necessary.
- In the event of accidental damage, a spare panel can be slipped in.
- The panels can be covered by farm help indoors during the winter, and the house can be readied for use in a very short time. end

We have sold plastic pots and plastic 4 1/2" labels for many years and are now shipping them for the first time. The pots are mottled colors and we will pack a variety unless you specify all alike.

2 1/4" plastic pots 25 for \$1.25 postpaid

2 1/2" plastic pots 25 for \$1.50 postpaid

3" squatty tubs 25 for \$1.75 postpaid

3 1/2" regular 25 for \$2.00 postpaid

Plastic labels 100 for \$1.25 postpaid

Also soft white plastic saucers — 6 for 50¢. These fit 3 1/2" pots. These are very satisfactory and I am sure you will want to try them.

We have many old and new varieties of African violets for wholesale and retail here but no list or shipping on African violets at present. No C.O.D.'s please.

LYKE'S AFRICAN VIOLETS

East Bethany, N. Y.

34 miles from Rochester "the Convention City"
6 miles Southeast of Batavia

TEMPERATURE - HUMIDITY RATIO

Col. Bert Rosenbaum, U. S. Army

During my eight years experience in growing African violets, I have worried over the many eccentricities of the African violet, such as why the whites, light blues, pinks, and holly leaf type generally need less light than the darker varieties — why do some violets use more water than others — why do the plants have a blooming cycle — why will some plants stand colder weather — why do some varieties stand higher temperatures — why do the leaves of some plants root faster, etc? Although these characteristics are sometimes irritating, they are exactly what make the Saintpaulia a wonderful experimental plant and promises us the possibility of a very superior plant for the future.

Since I feel that each of these conditions should be given at least a chapter in any book, I will endeavor to cover briefly and inadequately only one set of these conditions and how they are related. These conditions are temperature and humidity.

While many of you may have noted this relation of temperature versus humidity, maybe the opportunity to grow these plants in different parts of the world has given me an experimental advantage you have not had. I made my observations in Newfoundland; Dayton, Ohio; Mobile, Alabama, and Morocco, North Africa, my present Station. I shall describe the climatic conditions in each location. I am sure you will note that I have been given a rare opportunity to experiment.

Taking each location in order, I will describe my observations made while growing the plant at each of them.

Newfoundland: The climate had a mean temperature of approximately 24° F — the lowest temperature noted was minus 5° in winter months and highest temperature noted was a rare 84° F during the summer months. Nevertheless, the temperature inside was easy to control. The days were extremely long in the summer and short during the winter. However, growing conditions inside were excellent for the violets and they bloomed the year round with more abundance of blooms in the summer than in the winter. The humidity was high during the months of March, April, May and June, but the temperature stayed low enough to void any effects of the high humidity.

Dayton, Ohio: Dayton is just about our average weather for the United States with hot weather and high humidity during June, July, August and part of September. Here I had to devise means to combat the combination of heat and humidity. I found that a continuous flow of air over the plants kept them in good condition and generally in bloom the entire summer. Until

I devised this means for a flow of air over the plants, I had only a few blooms on only a few varieties during the summer.

Mobile, Alabama: Mobile gives the violet grower a challenge unless he or she lives where there is a breeze or can force ventilation across the plants or Air Condition the room in which the violets grow. I found that the months of June, July, August and September were very hard on the plants because the average humidity was over 85% day and night during these months and the temperature averaged about 90° F. Even at night the temperature rarely fell below 80° F. During these months it was very hard to start leaves and my entire culture of the African violet seemed out of balance. By lowering the temperature to an 85° F during the day and around 70° F at night, I noted a decided improvement. (Note the 15° F temperature change.)

Casablanca, North Africa: Of all places I have grown the plant, I think this is the most ideal. There is never a frost and the maximum temperature only gets into the nineties about eight or ten times a year. The average humidity at night is between 70% and 80% and during the day runs between 25% and 35%. The temperature outside varies about 25 to 30° F between day and night. Inside the temperature varies from 75° to 90° F from night to day or a spread of 15° F. Inside my violets have grown and bloomed profusely all summer, while outside, (I have a place fixed with fluorescent lights in an open garage) the violets have grown fairly well with only a few blooms on a few plants. However, the growth was slower and the leaves very crisp.

My conclusions are:

1. That we worry about relative humidity when we should worry about moisture content of the air versus temperature.

a. Relative humidity is a ratio of saturated air at a certain temperature to what it actually does hold at the same temperature.

b. Vapor pressure is a true measure of the quantity of water in the air regardless of temperature, and represents the moisture that affect the plants. The ability of a violet to tolerate moisture is in a direct ratio to the temperature.

2. The following are my recommendations for combating humidity versus temperature:

When temperature varies from:

60° — 75° F

70° — 85° F

75° — 90° F

Humidity could vary from:

45 — 85% (Best results around 65%)

40 — 60% (Best results around 55%)

30 — 40% (Best results around 40%)

3. At any temperature above 90°F, air should be circulated through the plants and the humidity

kept around 30% if possible; however, I believe a good growth and bloom can be expected with humidity up to 50% for a short period of time. If the humidity goes to 80 or 90%, as it does in Mobile, Alabama, and you cannot get a circulation of air through your plants, you can expect serious losses.

4. A fifteen degree variation of temperature between day and night, according to my experience, is best — provided the humidity can be controlled, and provided the humidity stays within a desirable range. I believe the 15° F temperature variation between day and night is more important than keeping the growing temperature at 65° F at night and 75° F during the day time. I say this because I have never had better success with my plants than I have here where the temperature inside during the day averages 88° F and at night it averages 74° F. Any greater variation will shock most of the varieties; although I noticed that Ohio Bountiful, White Madonna, Sweet Memory, Double One, Periwinkle, and my own variety, Purple Rajah, did very well even though the temperature varied outside about 25° F during the summer. Of course we all know that the African violet does have a tolerance to a variety of conditions and can adjust to a great degree in regards to numerous situations. As example, some people leave their plants sitting in water. (I person-

ally believe this hurts the condition of the foliage even though the plant does bloom), also by carefully increasing a fertilization plan, the plants can utilize a greater amount of fertilizer, etc.

5. I do not recommend circulating a fine mist of water across plants where the temperature is above 90° F and the humidity is above 70%. This is likely to cause fungus growth and cause excessive rotting of the leaves. I would not follow a plan of regularly washing the leaves under these conditions. Instead, gently dust the leaves.

I really have no interesting information to relate regarding the growing of the African violet in Morocco. The "Vita" Nursery in Casablanca has been growing them for about three years, but they are very far behind the United States in its cultivation. I visited them and offered all the assistance I could as they are having extreme difficulty with nematodes and mites, and found them very appreciative. All of their plants are grown from seeds, and I saw no doubles. I naturally remedied that situation.

Let me extend my offer of cuttings from my seventy-five varieties to any member in Africa, provided they pay the postage charges.

This is all from Morocco.

end

— LOOK —

"DOUBLE CLARISSA HARRIS"

Heavy fringed deep pink double with chartreuse edging, ours exclusively.

DRESDEN SNOW
DRESDEN LACE
SILVER WAVES
WHITE DREAM

All heavy fringed whites, both single and double, ours alone. Many other new releases. Send 3 cent stamp for leaf listing of over 300 varieties. The very newest and best to be had. We ship cut leaves only, plants for sale at the house.

LAKIN VIOLET HOUSE

2112 E. Taylor Street Bloomington, Ill.

AFRICAN VIOLET SEED

- Mixture A — more than 50 single flowered varieties — 300 seeds — \$1.00
 - Mixture B — from varieties having "girl type" foliage — 150 seeds — \$1.00
 - Mixture C — from single flowered varieties crossed with double flowered varieties — 150 seeds — \$2.00
 - Mixture D — from pink flowered varieties crossed with other pink or white varieties — 150 seeds — \$2.00
 - Mixture FM — Our best mixture, 300 seeds \$3.00 of fine hybrids, mixed colors, fringed.
- Our Own Seed Starting Mixture
1 qt. — \$1.00

FOREST MILL

AFRICAN VIOLET SEED

4725 E. 35th St. Indianapolis, Ind.

Plan your Convention trip to include a visit to

RIENHARDT'S AFRICAN VIOLETS

SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

1½ hrs. drive from the Convention — via New York State Thruway. Exit at Interchange 36, take route 11 south to intersection of 20N which is West Seneca Tpk., turn right, proceed 2 miles — Sign on right.
Largest selection of NEW varieties in the area — plants in all sizes.

Featuring —

- Primitif — A new color, glowing fuchsia pink.
- Invader — Double pink star, best seedling winner at '57 Convention.
- Pink Babysbreath — Pink and white double, really stays pink and white.
- Redderness — Reddest red yet, sensational.

Also Blue Electra, Pink Miracle, Silver Flute, My Sin, Vallin Pink, Pink Glamour, Warm Welcome, Pink Caress, Frivolous Pink, many many others.

We carry a full line of hard to find African Violet Supplies — Sponge-Rok, VC-13, Pure Sodium Selenate, Neil Miller's Pest Control Chart, Watering Pots, Via Ho'da Plant Stands, Sterilized Soil, Isotox, Plant Marvel, etc.

Come and browse around, see our beautiful new seedling room, just completed. We are delighted to have you look and are sure you will feel it was worth your while.

Stamp for leaf list

No plants shipped

BUYER'S GUIDE

The members of the Buyer's Guide Committee wish to give you their selection for the CHOICE TWENTY-FIVE varieties for this year; also their Baker's Dozen or their TWELVE BEST BLOOMERS.

Pictured are the committee members and their reports:

Mrs. Sam Nichols

246 Madison Blvd.

Madison, Tennessee



CHOICE TWENTY-FIVE: Westfall White, Mendota, Kimberley, So Sweet, Tennessee Pink, Fire Dance, Crusader, Star Blue, Santa Maria, Vallin Pink, Salome, Black Cherry, Pink Miracle, Fringed Snow Prince, Lavender Air Waves, Pink Victoria, Swirling Petticoats, Lavenda, White Pride Supreme, Blue Nocturne, Northern Cheer, Fascination, Bud's Strike Me Pink, Meteore, and Lorna Doone.

TWELVE BEST BLOOMERS: Westfall White, Mendota, So Sweet, Lavenda, Santa Maria, Tennessee Pink, Crusader, Salome, Ruthie, Star Blue, Fire Dance, and Kimberley.

Mrs. D. E. Cubbage

403 McElheny Road

Glenshaw, Penn.



CHOICE TWENTY-FIVE: T-V Vallin Pink, T-V Cut Velvet, Star Blue, Star Pink, Fringed Snow Prince, Blue Duet, Fire Dance, Double Lavender Air Waves, Kimberley, Navy Bouquet, Pink Joy, Northern Sunshine, White Pride Supreme, Double Pink Victoria, Thunderhead, Boyce Edens, Rosalinda, Purple Knight, Pink Miracle, Pink Caress, Lorna Doone, Hi-Loa Light Blue, Strike Me Pink, Emperor Wilhelm, Frilly Fluff.

TWELVE BEST BLOOMERS: Hi-Loa Light Blue, Hi-Loa Cobalt Blue, Black Magic, Emperor Wilhelm, Tennessee Rose, Tennessee Debutante, Bernice, Navy Bouquet, Pandora (Granger's), Boyce Edens, Purple Knight, White Madonna.

Mrs. Charles Stoehr

Route 1, Box 143

Greenwood, Indiana



CHOICE TWENTY-FIVE: Emperor Wilhelm, Strike Me Pink, Pink Double One, Holiday, Kimberley, Dresden Dream, Pink Sequins, Pink Miracle, Blue Star, Chopan, Fire Dance, Lorna Doone, White Puff, Blue Nocturne, Blushing, Neptune, Will Hayes, Crusader, Rose Wing, Ruffled Queen, Boyce Edens, Fantasy, White Madonna, Prima Donna, Sir Lancelot.

TWELVE BEST BLOOMERS: Emperor Wilhelm, Kimberley, Pink Double One, Boyce Edens, Blue Canoe, Neptune, Sunrise, Tennessee Rose, Crusader, Black Magic, White Madonna, Lavender and Lace.

Mrs. John Buckner

206 N. Lake Street

Pleasant Hill, Mo.



CHOICE TWENTY-FIVE: DuPont Lavender Pink, Boyce Edens, White Madonna, Pink Camellia (Tonkadale's), Double Peach Blossom, So Sweet, Pink Miracle, T-V Vallin Pink, Kimberley, Fire Dance, Emperor Wilhelm, Paleface, Sir Lancelot, Lavender Lace, Show Cloud, Cydonia, Zephyr Pink, Confederate Beauty, Minnesota, Mary Thompson, Lorna Doone, Blue Nocturne, Splash, Dubonnet, Africa.

TWELVE BEST BLOOMERS: Pink Miracle, Pink Angel, Confederate Beauty, Emperor Wilhelm, Innocence, Heather, Pink Cloud, T-V Handsome, Fire Dance, Paleface, Lorna Doone, Lavender Lace.

Please send us a list of your Choice Twenty-Five. The plants chosen for the BEST 100 will be selected from your listings, and will be published in the June Magazine. So do not delay — sit down right now and write out your list of the twenty-five African violets that have grown and bloomed best for you during the past year. Mail the list to the Buyer's Guide secretary, Mrs. D. E. Cubbage, 403 McElheny Rd., Glenshaw, Pennsylvania. Deadline for entries is April 15th.

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN
AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.**

MYRTLE RADTKE, Treasurer
P. O. Box 1326
Knoxville, Tennessee

Date _____

Please enroll me as a member of African Violet Society of America, Inc. My Dues are enclosed.
All Classes of Memberships Are Defined Below.

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| SELECT | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership is only \$4.00. |
| AND | <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Membership is \$13.33. |
| CHECK | <input type="checkbox"/> Research Members pay \$20.00. |
| ONE | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Membership is \$10.00. |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership is available for \$66.66. |

Print Name and Address:

Name _____

Street Address _____

City and State _____

Make Checks Payable to African Violet Society of America, Inc.

DETACH ON DOTTED LINE

GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

A year's membership in the African Violet Society of America, Inc. makes a wonderful gift for every occasion — birthdays, anniversaries, Christmas, holidays, or as an appreciation gift for club speakers.

A gift card (you may enclose your own) will be sent to the recipient of your fine gift.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS . . . Individual members pay \$4.00 per year (a year may be any twelve-month period).

COMMERCIAL MEMBERS . . . All persons or firms who annually sell one thousand or more African violet plants or leaf cuttings of the same; or who manufacture or sell fertilizer, disease and insect-control materials and equipment, tools, or any other merchandise pertaining to or applicable to growing African violets shall be commercial members. They shall pay \$13.33 per year (a year may be any twelve-month period). Of each annual dues so paid, all sums in excess of \$4.00 shall be applied to the Research Fund of the Society.

RESEARCH MEMBERS . . . Research members pay at least \$20.00 for each twelve-month period of membership, and at least 85% of each membership paid shall be applied to the Research Fund of the Society.

SUSTAINING MEMBERS . . . Sustaining members pay at least \$10.00 per year (a year may be any twelve-month period).

LIFE MEMBERS . . . The payment of \$66.66 or more shall entitle any person to life membership, and life members shall be exempt from any further dues.

MEMBERSHIPS OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

The Society is happy to welcome members from all parts of the world. Application for membership should be sent direct to the Treasurer. Remittance for membership dues, by check, draft or postal money order, should be made payable in United States funds.

PROGRAM

"VIOLETS IN THE FLOWER CITY"

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23

6:30 P.M.
To
9:30 P.M. Registration Mezzanine

THURSDAY, APRIL 24

8:00 A.M.
To
6:00 P.M. Registration Mezzanine

7:30 A.M. Judging School Victorian Room
To Ruth G. Carey, Knoxville, Tennessee
11:00 A.M. Chairman of Committee on Staging Shows

12:30 P.M. Judging School Examination Victorian Room
To
2:00 P.M.

1:30 P.M.
To
4:00 P.M. Tour of Rochester

6:00 P.M. Dinner Meeting Ball Room

Convention Convenes
H. G. Harvey, Atlanta, Georgia, Presiding

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Invocation, R. R. Southwick, Rochester, New York

Welcome to Rochester, Honorable Peter Barry, Mayor of Rochester, New York

Presentation of National President
William B. Carter, Tewksbury, Massachusetts

Introduction of Convention Chairman
Mrs. Fred Flory, Geneseo, New York

Introduction of Program Chairman
Lewis E. Cook, Gainesville, New York

"GROWING AFRICAN VIOLETS AND THEIR RELATIVES IN THE GREENHOUSE," Peggie Shulz, Consulting Editor, Flower and Garden Magazine

"THE LITTLE THINGS THAT COUNT," Mrs. E. H. Thomas, Walnut Creek, California

9:30 P.M. Exhibits Open (Registered Convention Members Only)
To
11:30 P.M. Amateur Show Starlight Roof
Commercial Exhibit Starlight Roof
Commercial Sales Room Starlight Roof

FRIDAY, APRIL 25

8:00 A.M.
To
6:00 P.M. Registration Mezzanine

9:00 A.M. Morning Meeting Ball Room
Bill Smithson, Kansas City, Missouri, Presiding

Invocation, Mrs. James Johnson, Jamestown, New York

"SUCCESS AND ENJOYMENT WITH AFRICAN VIOLETS," William L. Meachem, Associate Editor, Flower Grower Magazine, New York, New York

Annual Business Meeting, William B. Carter, Presiding

11:30 A.M.	Exhibits Open (Registered Convention Members Only)	
To	Amateur Show	Starlight Roof
12:30 P.M.	Commercial Exhibit	Starlight Roof
	Commercial Sales Room	Starlight Roof
12:30 P.M.	Luncheon Meeting	Ball Room
	Joseph D. Shulz, Indianapolis, Indiana, Presiding	
	Invocation, Mrs. Elmer Ace, Honeoye, New York	
	"LET'S GO TO POT," Mrs. Naomi Weeks, Naomi's African Violets, Brockport, New York	
	WORKSHOP AND DISCUSSION GROUPS. Meeting rooms to be announced	
	"Affiliated Chapters," Chairman, Mrs. Martin Wangberg, 14½ N. Central Avenue, Harlowton, Montana	
	"Commercial Growers," Chairman, H. G. Harvey, 6600 Wright Road, Atlanta, Georgia	
	"Organic Growing," Chairman, Joseph D. Schulz, 3605 N. Audubon Road, Indianapolis, Indiana	
	"Parliamentary Law," Chairman, Mrs. Rene Edmundson, 417 Arlington Avenue, East McKeesport, Pennsylvania	
	"Program Planning," Mrs. Jack Yakie, P. O. Box 674, Port Arthur, Texas	
	"Registration of African Violets," Chairman, Mrs. Constance Hansen, Box 302, Lafayette, California	
	"Show Problems and Judging," Chairman, Mrs. James B. Carey, 3900 Garden Drive, Knoxville, Tennessee	
6:30 P.M.	Banquet Meeting	Ball Room
	Mrs. Arthur Radtke, Cincinnati, Ohio, Presiding	
	Invocation, Mrs. Olin Owen, Livonia, New York	
	"AFRICAN VIOLETS AND THEIR RELATIVES," Dr. Harold E. Moore, Jr., L. H. Bailey Hortorium, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York	
	AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY AWARDS FOR 1957, Mrs. Z. C. Layson, Maysville, Kentucky	

Introduction of Life Members. All Life Members are requested to sit at the reserved table in front of the speaker's table

Roll Call of States

Exhibits Open (Registered Convention Members Only) at close of Banquet Meeting	
Amateur Show	Starlight Roof
Commercial Exhibit	Starlight Roof
Commercial Sales Room	Starlight Roof

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

9:00 A.M.	Morning Meeting	Ball Room
	Mrs. Fred Tretter, St. Louis, Missouri, Presiding	
	Invocation, Mrs. Carlton Tallock, Rochester, New York	
	"THE BUYER'S GUIDE REPORTS," Buyer's Guide Committee of African Violet Magazine	
	Mrs. Sam O. Nichols, Chairman, Madison, Tennessee	
	Mrs. David Cubbage, Secretary, Glenshaw, Pennsylvania	
	Mrs. William Rodda, Ossian, Indiana	
	Mrs. John Buckner, Pleasant Hill, Missouri	
	Mrs. Charles Stoebr, Greenwood, Indiana	
	"REPORT ON RESEARCH."	

TELL YOU WHAT

NEW MEMBERSHIPS and RENEWALS — should be sent to the treasurer, Myrtle Radtke, P. O. Box 116, Madisonville Station, Cincinnati 43, Ohio or to P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tennessee. Both addresses will reach Mrs. Radtke. Make all checks payable to the African Violet Society of America, Inc.

NEW MEMBERSHIPS and RENEWALS of AFFILIATED CHAPTER MEMBERS — should be sent to Maxine Wangberg, 14½ N. Central Avenue, Harlowton, Montana. Please pay your dues through your Chapter treasurer if you are a member of a Chapter.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS — send your old address at least 30 days before the issue with which it is to take effect. Send old address with the new, enclosing if possible your address label.

BACK ISSUES OF MAGAZINE — write the African Violet Society of America, Inc., P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tennessee for a list of those in stock. Not all magazines are available as back issues. Do not send money until you get the list. Make check payable to the African Violet Society of America, Inc. Cost \$1.00 per copy.

ADVERTISING RATES — are available from Floyd L. Johnson, 183 W. Gibson Street, Canandaigua, New York.

AFFILIATED CHAPTER INFORMATION — write to Maxine Wangberg, 14½ N. Central Avenue, Harlowton, Montana.

MAGAZINE BINDERS — write the African Violet Society of America, Inc., P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tennessee.

JUDGING SCHOOLS — for information about holding a judging school to become a qualified judge write Ruth G. Carey, 3900 Garden Drive, Knoxville 18, Tennessee.

AWARDS FOR SHOWS — write Maxine Wangberg, 14½ N. Central Avenue, Harlowton, Montana.

HOMING PIGEON — while this correspondence service is no longer sponsored by the African Violet Magazine, Pigeon groups already organized and in operation may continue their flights under their director's guidance or under their own direction, if they so desire.

CLUB NEWS — send all club news to the Club News editor, Maxine Wangberg, 14½ N. Central Avenue, Harlowton, Montana.

SHOW NEWS — send all show news reports to the Show -- News and Views editor, Eunice Fisher, Route 3, Box 284, Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

PLANT REGISTRATION — write Constance Hansen, Box 302, Lafayette, California.

DEADLINE DATES FOR MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS — for September issue, June 1st; December issue, September 1st; March issue, December 1st; June issue, March 1st.

PHOTOGRAPHS — cannot be returned unless by previous agreement with the editor.

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY PIN — may be purchased from the Society pin chairman, E. Pearl Turner, 828 Kenmore Boulevard, Akron, Ohio.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION BLANKS and BROCHURES — specify number required when writing the Society, P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tennessee.

COLOR SLIDES and CLUB PROGRAMS — write librarian, Maisie Yakie, P. O. Box 674, Port Arthur, Texas.

DUES — \$4.00 for a 12 months period. The Magazine is included in each membership.

SPECIAL AWARDS - AMATEUR DIVISION

DAVIDSON COUNTY SOCIETY OF AFRICAN VIOLET CLUBS, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE — AWARD of \$25.00 for the best specimen plant in single pink. Class 8.

TONKADALE GREENHOUSES \$50.00 CASH SURPRISE AWARD to be given to a National African Violet Society member at the banquet session of the 1958 Convention. Previous winners not eligible. (Not a door prize.)

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BEHNKE NURSERIES AWARD — Please notice changes in plant names. Behnke Girl to Snow Finch, Callico Girl to Color Magic, Blue Behnke Boy to Behnke Boy.



Mrs. William C. Rodda

P. O. Box 6

Ossian, Indiana

CHOICE TWENTY-FIVE: Kimberley, T-V Rose Prom, Clarissa Harris, T-V Vallin Pink, Pink Valentine, Pink Celebrity, Pink Popcorn, T-V Swirling Petticoats, Cydonia, Pink Miracle, Blue Nocturne, Lorna Doone, Olivia, Fascination, Little Sweetheart, Ramona, White Goddess, June Bride (Tinari's), Double One, Pink Double One, Royal Bouquet, Grace Pope, Sweet Adeline, Pink Cloud, White Madonna.

TWELVE BEST BLOOMERS: White Madonna, Cydonia, June Bride (Tinari's), Pink Celebrity, Clarissa Harris, Blue Nocturne, Evelyn Johnson, Fascination, Double One, Pink Double One.

We wish to thank those of you who have sent us such nice letters telling us how much you enjoy our reports in the Magazine. Do let us hear from you any time that we may be of assistance. It is a real pleasure to hear from you and to give you the benefit of any experience we have in growing and selecting good performing African violets. So feel free to write to us. end

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MY EXPERIENCE WITH GIBBERELIC ACID ON AFRICAN VIOLETS

Mrs. Ernest Adams, Greene, New York

According to most of the articles I have read, people do not think too much of using gibberellic acid on African violets but I have had fun and some excellent results.

The most startling was a Royal Bouquet which developed very dark green leaves with very light green edges, and the blooms were out of this world. They were the largest blooms and the most blooms I have ever seen on a violet. It had ten stems of eight to ten flowers to each stem. I have "set" many leaves to see if they turn out the same.

One plant, living on borrowed time because it had never bloomed and I intended to discard it, perked up and went into beautiful bloom. I had owned the violet for two years and it had never bloomed before.

Another plant, Double Delight, flowered smaller and seemed stunted.

A few doubles bloomed single and some seemed unchanged by it.

Azure Beauty took on a shine to the leaf and the bloom was a brighter, livelier color.

I did not get elongated leaves as some report.

The blooms on one variety seemed thicker, felt like plastic, and were much improved.

Leaves from sprayed plants seem to root easily and make plants quickly.

I feel that the improvement in most offsets the injury to a few. end

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MAKING NEW VARIETIES WITH RADIATION

The Elderkins, Toledo, Ohio

History — The Chinese knew about the effect of radiation from the earth before they knew much about the Europeans.

When an ancestor of the writer visited China over a century ago a manderin was experimenting with flowers in his garden. When Grandfather retired from the sea he manufactured pickles. He needed better cucumbers so he tried the Chinese method. Cucumber seed were planted over what some people call an "Earth Ray". The young plants were transplanted to the field. Some of the cucumbers produced by that method were quite different from the variety planted. Some of the seed from the best varieties were started in the "Experimental bed" for further improvement.

We have been experimenting with different types of radiation during the past twenty years. We did not think about experimenting with African violets until they accidentally got radiated while we were working with another experiment.

We noticed a "Boy" leaf cutting was having "Girl" babies. Then we looked at all of our leaf cuttings and found some of them were mutating. A few experiments helped us to find the cause of our new varieties.

A Theory — We like to read technical books. When we find something interesting we take notes, but we often neglected to make a notation of the source of our information. That is why

we cannot say where this theory came from. It appears to be a very good explanation of the cause of mutations.

According to this theory all types of energy are related. If we produce 256 vibrations per second we hear those vibrations and call the sound "Middle C". About 1,000,000 vibrations is called electricity. Going up the "Scale" we find heat, color, x-ray, atomic energy, and what we call "Life". We read about changing radio waves into sound, and electricity into light, heat, and x-radiation. According to this theory there could be hundreds perhaps thousands of octaves of energy which is manifested as "Life", starting with the virus and going up. It is a well known fact that energy cannot be destroyed but it can be changed to another type. We can tighten a violin string and it will produce a higher note. — More vibrations per second.

The results of thousands of experiments indicate that this energy we call "Life" comes from a Dependable Source Of Energy. It appears that each plant and animal is receiving its energy on its own individual wave length. If we can change the wave length so the plant is tuned in on a shorter wave (or more vibrations per second) the plant begins to change to a higher form of plant life.

We start a leaf cutting, a little plant will be produced from a cell at the end of the petiole. This little plant will be tuned in on the same wave length as the mother plant so it will grow to have all of the mother's traits. If a cosmic ray passes through that cell where the baby plant is being formed the baby is either killed or attuned to another wave length. The same results can be produced with so called "Man Made Radiation".

In our experiments with African violets we find that mutations appear to be produced in pairs. One baby plant will have a shorter wave length than the mother plant while its sister will be just as far down the scale. According to family tradition one of Grandfather's cucumber vines produced long twisted fruit he called a "Shake" cucumber and another vine growing in the same hill was producing fruit about 1 inch long.

This article must be short. We know that very few people would be interested in a long detailed report of the results of hundreds of African violet leaf cuttings being grown by about two hundred people all over the United States and one in Alaska. We are making progress.

end



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HOW TO PLANT YOUR "VIOLET" JAR

Frank A. Tinari, Bethayres, Pennsylvania

Have you wondered why the "Violet Jar" (commonly known as a strawberry jar), has become so popular in recent years?

They have come into popularity for several very logical reasons and proven to be most satisfactory to the plant hobbyist. Violets need to be pot bound for best blooming results, and growing fairly close in this type of container maintains this condition. The humidity and moisture factor is also helped. They do not dry out as quickly as when they are grown in individual pots. Plants used in this decorative manner require less attention and conserve space. This arrangement makes a very unusual centerpiece and is a topic of conversation wherever it may be displayed.

When purchasing a jar for this purpose, be certain that a drainage hole is provided in the bottom. Select a jar that is fairly easy to plant with the openings for planting at least two inches wide. A jar that can be moved easily from one location to another will provide extra enjoyment as a centerpiece. It is best to select African violet varieties that are profuse bloomers and of flexible leaf texture to make an interesting and complimentary arrangement.

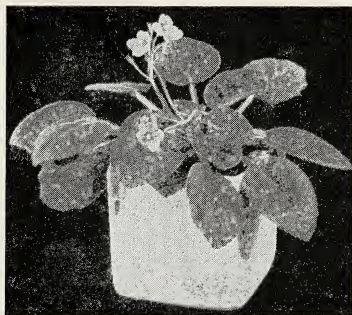
The proper procedure in planting a "Violet Jar" is as follows:

1. Cover bottom of jar with a sizeable layer of clean pebbles.
2. Add $\frac{1}{4}$ " layer of granulated charcoal to keep soil sweet.
3. To a mixture of especially prepared sterilized soil, add 25% bar sand. Mix thoroughly. By using a mixture of this type, no center drainage is needed. This also eliminates the necessity of any other type of irrigation inside the jar and it is porous enough that you can conveniently water from above with proper drainage taking place.
4. Pour your soil mixture to the first set of openings. Your jar should be planted gradually, starting from the bottom up.
5. Put plants in from the outside, root first.
6. Firm plants neatly in each opening around the first layer of the jar, placing a small amount of sphagnum moss on top of the soil at each opening to keep plant and soil slightly moist.
7. Continue to fill violet jar with more soil to your next set of openings (or if your jar is smaller just to center top) and plant. Gently but firmly put in center plant leaving above $\frac{1}{2}$ " space from top of finished jar, so watering can be done with

ease and have quick penetration. Place small quantity of sphagnum moss also at top.

8. Your "Violet Jar" should be watered possibly twice a week. However, this may vary when taking into account your specific conditions.
9. Liquid plant food is suitable to use about every two to three weeks.
10. Turn jar occasionally so that the plants grow evenly. Keep old flower stalks and unsightly leaves trimmed off. It may become necessary in order to keep jar from being "overgrown" to snap off larger outer leaves. This will maintain an even looking growth and will give strength to center crown, producing a profusion of buds and larger flowers. end

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THE THOMASES

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AIR CONDITIONING EXTENDS GREENHOUSE USE

Derek Lydecker

Reprinted from The New York Times,
with permission

Air conditioning — a new trend in greenhouse gardening — now makes it possible to grow plants all year round. Cooled glass houses are practical, especially in warm climates, because growers do not have to wait for the cooler spring, fall and winter months.

Uncooled greenhouses become so hot in summer that most home owners must move all plants into the garden and leave the glass house empty. Thus, the cooled greenhouses save much time and labor in late spring and early fall.

COOL INTERIORS

With temperatures inside the greenhouses reduced as much as fifteen to twenty degrees, greenhouse gardeners have found they can produce better plants and consequently more flowers, vegetables and fruits of higher quality.

Also, air conditioning will lengthen the intervals between watering. Since less water is required, there is less leaching of plant nutrients. Nevertheless, one of the most important advantages of air conditioning is that a greenhouse with such an evaporative-cooling system need not be shaded if the plants require sun.

Earlier last summer, when the temperature rose to eighty degrees outdoors, a greenhouse

company conducted an interesting experiment with three fifteen-by-thirty foot greenhouses set up side by side. The first house was tightly closed, no door or vents open. It was entirely unshaded. Inside, the thermometer rose to one hundred-and-twenty degrees.

The second greenhouse had all vents open, but no shading. There the thermometer read ninety-three degrees. The third house, unshaded and unvented, had the advantage of an evaporative cooler. In this greenhouse, the thermometer — in full sunlight — registered only eighty-four degrees. Of course, with cooling and shading (desirable for plants like orchids and African violets), it would have been possible to keep the temperature still lower.

The actual amount of cooling varies in different climates and depends mainly on the humidity outside. Evaporative coolers are more effective in dry climates than in humid ones. But even in humid areas — like the New York City vicinity — evaporative cooling equipment should lower the temperature about fifteen degrees.

Installation of cooling equipment is simple. It can easily be built into a new structure or installed in an existing greenhouse. Only a few foundation blocks have to be knocked out for a duct connection. The unit is then hooked up to an electric line and to an existing water tap.

Small coolers are about twenty-six by twenty-three by twenty-eight inches in size; large ones are forty by thirty-four by twenty-eight inches. The unit itself is weatherproof since it is placed outside the greenhouse wall. Three sides of the cooler are exposed to open air — preferably at least six inches away from neighboring buildings, and on the side from where prevailing winds blow.

Outside air is drawn into the cooler and passed through aspenwood excelsior pads saturated with water. The relatively dry outside air is moistened by these pads and cooled by the evaporation of water. Then the outdoor air is blown into the greenhouse through the duct in the wall by a fan inside the cooler.

OPEN THE VENTS

As this cooled air passes through the greenhouse it removes heat and pushes it up through the roof vents which are propped open about two inches. Automatic vents are disconnected and propped open during the time the cooler is used.

For best results a cooler should be equipped with a thermostat for automatic operation. The thermostat can be set to turn the cooling equipment on at a certain temperature as well as to shut off the fan and circulating pump when the air gets too cool. end

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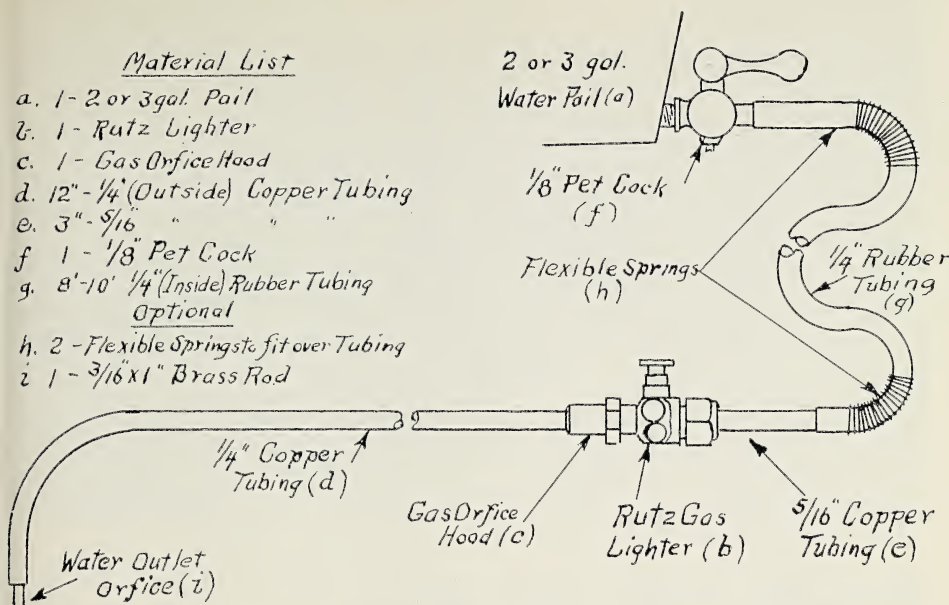
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Material List

- a. 1- 2 or 3 gal. Pail
- b. 1- Rutz Lighter
- c. 1- Gas Orifice Hood
- d. 12"- $\frac{1}{4}$ " (Outside) Copper Tubing
- e. 3"- $\frac{5}{16}$ " " " "
- f. 1- $\frac{1}{8}$ " Pet Cock
- g. 8'-10' $\frac{1}{4}$ " (Inside) Rubber Tubing
- Optional
- h. 2 - Flexible Springs to fit over Tubing
- i. 1 - $\frac{3}{16} \times 1$ " Brass Rod



Handy Gadget Cuts Watering Time

John H. Conant, South Newfane, Vermont

One of my several hobbies is raising African violets on a farm in Vermont. Besides having blooming plants in every room in the house (even the bathroom) we are growing several hundred plants under fluorescent lights in the cellar.

One of the most tedious jobs in the raising of violets is watering these plants, particularly those in the cellar. In order to simplify this watering problem I have made up a device which I find very satisfactory and wish to pass it on to other growers who might be interested.

The handy man around the house can make up this gadget with possibly a little outside help if his work shop is not too well equipped. While this drawing is quite complete a detailed explanation of the assembly may be of some help.

First, obtain what is known as a Rutz Gas Lighter. This lighter was formerly used quite extensively for a pilot light on gas stoves and is no doubt available in most any gas company repair shop at small cost. Be sure the inlet end of the lighter has the necessary $\frac{5}{16}$ " copper tube fitting. When procuring this lighter also obtain a brass gas orifice hood which will screw onto the outlet end of the lighter. This hood must be drilled out to $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Solder the $\frac{1}{4}$ " copper tubing to the gas orifice hood.

This lighter gives one complete control of the amount of water being given any plants. It is possible to apply the water to the top of the

plant without wetting the foliage when this is objectionable.

It is desirable to reduce the outlet opening of the $\frac{1}{4}$ " tubing by approximately one-half. This can be accomplished in either of two ways. Slightly close the end of the tubing with a pair of pliers or insert and solder a brass bushing (approximately $\frac{3}{16}$ " diameter) which has previously been drilled out with a $\frac{3}{32}$ " drill.

Fit the $\frac{5}{16}$ " piece of copper tubing to the inlet end of the Rutz Lighter.

Drill a hole about $1\frac{1}{2}$ " above the bottom of the pail just large enough to take the $\frac{1}{8}$ " pet cock and solder same to the pail. Be sure the lowest part of the pet cock is slightly above the bottom of the pail. If the outlet end of the pet cock is too large to take the rubber tubing file off sufficient material so that the tubing will fit the pet cock snugly and not leak.

It is very desirable to obtain two (2) loosely wound springs about three inches (3") long to fit easily over both ends of the ($\frac{1}{4}$ ") rubber tubing. This will have a tendency to avoid breaks in the tubing at these points during use.

In operation the pail should be located as far as possible above the plants being watered. end



In her greenhouse, Mrs. Kuhl enjoys, and works with her beautiful plants.

INTERESTING HOBBY TURNS INTO A PROFITABLE BUSINESS VENTURE

Back in 1949 Mrs. William F. Kuhl, Jr., of Burwyn Park, De Leon Springs, Florida, acquired an African violet plant, a book about violets, and became a member of the African Violet Society. This was the start of a hobby that has now become a very successful business venture.

Mrs. Kuhl's interest in violets started when she was living in New Jersey, and while there she had about one thousand five hundred plants in the basement of her home, which were growing under fluorescent lights. Since moving to Florida, her collection has continued to grow and her new greenhouse now houses more than five thousand violets which are growing under natural light.

Many of the plants are raised from seeds, but through propagation and cross breeding Mrs. Kuhl has developed many new varieties.

Her latest is a charming little miniature, with a variegated blue and white flower, which she has

tentatively named De Leon Posy. She has two other promising seedlings which have been tentatively named De Leon Iridescence and De Leon Frills. De Leon Iridescence has a pale orchid and white fringed flower and a medium green, heavy, round Dupont leaf. De Leon Frills has a medium orchid blossom, flat, and frilled around the edges, with a beautiful Dupont dark girl leaf.

Mrs. Kuhl sells plants, both retail and wholesale, from her well stocked greenhouse, and with each order includes instructions for the care of African violets. She recommends that the plants have strong light which will make them bloom well and make the foliage a healthy green. They should be watered sparingly about every two days, alternating watering from the top and bottom. Also she believes that potbound violets bloom more easily, and feels that a three or four inch pot is generally the largest you will ever need. end

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AFRICAN VIOLETS AND THEIR FAMILY

By Mary Margaret Odom

Reviewed by

Mrs. Forest L. Clough, Marshall, Missouri

Off the press at last comes a gem of a book entitled "African Violets and Their Family," by Mary Margaret Odom. This book contains 119 pages, 8½ by 11 inches, with over 200 pictures and drawings. A detailed guide for the beginner, it will charm the expert. The introduction is written by Ferne V. Kellar, who was the first president of the African Violet Society of America, Inc.

It is one of the most complete books ever written on African violets. A beautifully illustrated book, by an author whose own scientific experiments with both the rare and the more familiar varieties of African violets and their related plants, has drawn recognition throughout this country and Canada.

The chapter in her book on "Related Plants to the African Violets," deals with many relatives of the African violets. These plants, which she herself raised, have now been given to the University of Missouri for their experiment station.

There are chapters on the history of the African violet, the biological study of it, propagation and culture, diseases and pests with their control, soil and potting, the violet as a hobby, facts about staging shows, and various African violet clubs. Other chapters deal with species and varieties, with an index of the names of all listed African violets.

"African Violets and Their Family" is dedicated to Mrs. Odom's mother, Sarah Adah Miller, who loved these fascinating plants, giving many of them to her friends because she loved people too. Her mother wrote this poem, which is included in the book.

WHY I PLANT VIOLETS

Why do I plant the violets?

I'm glad to let you know.

The first of all the reasons

Is because I love them so.

I plant them for their beauty;

With just a bit of earth;

And then behold the miracles

My efforts have brought forth.

Mary Margaret Odom has compiled this book with the sole purpose of passing on to others the knowledge she has gained through her own experience. In her work with the violets she has been striving constantly to perfect sturdier plants with better foliage and larger blossoms. She has raised and studied African violets, both in her home and in her greenhouse, for over sixteen years, and is well known all over the United States for her outstanding work with the appeal-

ing little house plant. It is a plant whose beauty fascinates one, whether old or young, in good or poor health. It is a hobby that can be indulged in by the rich or the poor, by those who dwell in one room or a mansion, either in the city or in the country. The wide variety and tints of coloring can prove an allure to anyone. The green shadings of the varied leaves and the enticing violet shaped blossoms provide a bit of spring, no matter what the season. Because of its many varieties and the way it repays one with an abundance of bloom for the little care it receives, it brings new enthusiasts to the African violet hobby.

This is not the first time Mary Margaret Odom has written and published a book. In 1948 her sixty page booklet, "A Handbook for African Violet Growers," paved the way for many a violet lover to indulge in this captivating hobby.

THE AUTHORESS

Mrs. Odom's interest in African violets began when a friend gave her a leaf from a plant of Amethyst in 1941. By 1944 Mrs. Odom, who was living in Marion, Iowa, at the time, started the propagation of plants to sell. Later when she moved to Marshall, Missouri, she had around one thousand plants in her little greenhouse, many were seedlings that she had developed herself. She was one of the first persons to undertake the job of designing identification cards of the different varieties of African violets with their complete description and history, a photograph of the plant, with a painting in carefully-mixed-by-hand oil colors of the leaves and the blossoms. She started this index in 1944. These original and unique identification cards, the result of many hours of work, are being sent to the African Violet Society of America, Inc. to be kept as a permanent record.

As one of the early members of the National Society after it was formed in 1946, she was considered one of the top authorities on the different varieties and was in demand as a qualified African violet judge, and for her African violet programs. In 1952 she served as chairman of the first African violet show held at the Missouri State Fair in Sedalia, Missouri.

In the sunroom of her new home, surrounded by many of her choicest plants, she works and writes about this absorbing hobby. She is a housewife, her husband is W. H. "Bill" Odom, production manager and plant breeder of the Missouri Farmer's Association seed division. She is the busy mother of two lively teenagers — a son, Bobby Gene, and a daughter, Barbara Ann. end

PESTS AND DISEASES OF AFRICAN VIOLETS

Helen Montgomery, Kansas City, Missouri

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." This familiar quotation is certainly applicable and appropriate in regard to our African violets. We have our children vaccinated for smallpox. They receive shots for whooping cough, measles and scarlet fever. Why not take similar precautions with our precious plants?

Selenating our plants every three or four months will stamp out the wicked cyclamen mite as well as all sucking insects. I order my selenate from Mr. Neil Miller, Layton's Lake, Penns Grove, New Jersey. Follow his directions for the extra dilute method of using the quarter-gram capsules and you will not lose any plants. This is a poisonous product and should not be used by careless people.

Isolating all of our new plants for three months and discarding them immediately if any pests or diseases show up is another type of preventive maintenance.

Below I have outlined for you the insects, pests and diseases that most often annoy and kill our African violets. The symptoms and cures which I have listed will aid you in diagnosing trouble and taking the necessary steps to arrest or eliminate it.

1. Cyclamen Mite

- a. Symptoms: The centers of the plants appear hard, brittle and dwarfed. The buds and blooms do not open as they should. Cyclamen mite cannot be seen with the naked eye.
- b. Cure: Sodium selenate is a sure kill for mite.

2. Broad Mite

- a. Symptoms: Foliage curling down around the flower pot more than usual. Broad mite can only be seen under a microscope.
- b. Cure: Sodium selenate will also take care of this pest.

3. Root Nematodes

- a. Symptoms: A noticeable swelling on the roots of the plants and at the base of the stems close to the crown of your violets. Your plants will lose their healthy green color, turning rather gray or yellow. The plants will gradually become loose in the pots. Root nematodes can only be seen under a powerful microscope.
- b. Cure: I do not think there is any product on the market that will completely eliminate nematodes. How-

ever, since they spread by swimming, we can contain their development by keeping all new plants in separate saucers. Sterilizing your soil mixture will kill nematodes there. In addition, be sure to sterilize your pots. Do not re-root plants or root suckers taken from plants infected with nematodes. Bake your soil, which has been dampened, for at least one hour at 350 degrees. I prefer to bake mine two hours.

4. Leaf Nematodes

- a. Symptoms: Unusual swellings between the leaf and the base of the stem.
- b. Cure: There is no positive cure to the best of my knowledge. Discard your plants and do not take any leaf cuttings from them.

5. Mealy Bug

- a. Symptoms: Clusters of a cotton-like substance will appear on your leaves and flower stalks.
- b. Cure: Most sprays. Plant Marvel Spray, Optox and Black Leaf 40 will kill these.

If you spray, be certain to check your plants every few days for a new crop of the pests. A tooth pick tip, wrapped in cotton and dipped in rubbing alcohol, may be used to destroy these pests. Touch each mealy bug with the tip of the toothpick.

6. Aphids

- a. Symptoms: Tiny black insects which attack the new growth on your plants rather than the old leaves.
- b. Cure: Sodium selenate will rid you of these sucking insects.

7. Thrips

- a. Symptoms: Whitish spots and blotches appear on your leaves. Buds will blight and be deformed. These insects are small, black, brown or gray in color, and have two pairs of wings. Thrips may be seen with the naked eye, and are generally brought into your house on gladiolas and other garden flowers.
- b. Cure: Sodium selenate or Optox.

8. Red Spider

- a. Symptoms: Small webs appearing among your leaves and flower stalks.

- b. **Cure:** This is another sucking insect which can be killed with sodium selenate. Spraying repeatedly and regularly with Plant Marvel Spray or any other household insect spray containing DDT will also do the job.
9. **Symphylids**
- a. **Symptoms:** Tiny white worms about one-fourth of an inch in length which appear in your potting mixtures.
- Cure:** Sterilize your soil. These pests cannot live in soil that has been treated with sodium selenate.
10. **Springtails**
- a. **Symptoms:** Small insects that jump around in your saucers and on top of your pots after your violets have been watered.
- b. **Cure:** Use one teaspoon of Clorox, or one-fourth teaspoon of Black Leaf 40 or one teaspoon of 40% Chlordane emulsion to each quart of water (warm). Water your plants with this solution and only occasionally or after repotting with new soil will you need to do it again.
11. **Black Flies**
- a. **Symptoms:** These insects are also called manure gnats. They fly around your plants and lights. While not harmful they do detract from the beauty of your plants.
- b. **Cure:** Water your plants from the top with a solution of one-fourth teaspoon of Chlordane emulsion (40%) or one-fourth teaspoon of Black Leaf 40 to each quart of warm water. One dose is usually sufficient.

12. **Crown Rot**
- a. **Symptoms:** Your plant becomes wilted and limp and the leaves hang down over the pot.
- b. **Cure:** Since nematodes can make your plant appear the same be sure and inspect your roots. If it is free from nematodes, cut off at the base of your violet all the dead roots and soft stem and reroot in water.
13. **Root Rot**
- a. **Symptoms:** Loose plants and decaying roots.
- b. **Cure:** Do not let your plants stay dry too long between waterings. Do not use your food formula too strong.
14. **Mildew**
- a. **Symptoms:** Dusty mildew on your flower and leaf stems. Occasionally on top of your soil.
- b. **Cure:** This is a fungus that has sucking organisms. Good air circulation in your room (a fan is beneficial) and a light dusting of sulphur dust will help.
15. **Petiole Rot**
- a. **Symptoms:** Leaf stems turning a glassy color and becoming more transparent. This happens to the leaf stems touching the pot.
- b. **Cure:** Put a small band of aluminum foil around the top rim of your pot.

I have only dealt with the most frequent problems concerning our violets. If there are other plant troubles which you need help with please feel free to write me and I will do whatever I can to be of aid. end

FLUOR-AL — THE ARISTOCRAT OF PLANT STANDS

The "Indoor Greenhouse" for growing and displaying African violets, gloxinias and other house plants. The FLUOR-AL may be used with or without fluorescent lights. Fixtures combining fluorescent and incandescent lights are now available (optional). The FLUOR-AL is constructed entirely of solid aluminum, with full size (nearly 20" x 52") aluminum trays for bottom watering. Provision is made for mounting an automatic time switch on the top bracket, thus combining all necessary accessories into one unit. Supplied complete with all wiring, extension cords, etc.

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HELPFUL POINTERS FROM ENGLAND

E. Marriott, Wymondham, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, England

An article in *Amateur Gardening* in March, 1955, first attracted my attention to the African violet. This was by Mrs. Joy Hutson. Then, seeing an advertisement by Messrs. W. C. Wicks, I sent for a sample collection leaving the choice of variety to them. I found our mobile County Library carried a copy of Mrs. Major's book on the African violet so I borrowed it and imbibed the contents. There was plenty of time to devote to the cultivation as I am several years past the allotted span, living alone, and with a physical disability that confines me a good deal of the time to the sitting room.

I have a small greenhouse but this is not suitable, as it stands, for the cultivation of our specialty. So, placing a sheet of asbestos cement on iron cross bars two feet above the staging, attaching asbestos cement sides to a frame over this and covering the top with glass, a suitable frame was made. I laid heating wires from a transformer over the bottom and an oil lamp under the bottom with a spreader over the chimney to distribute the heat evenly. Then I put in three inches of peat and sand and a screened twenty-five volt lighting bulb in one corner to keep the air inside in circulation. This has proved quite satisfactory and it is an exception for a leaf inserted not to root. In fact I had more tiny plants than I knew what to do with.

Then I saw in one of Mr. Wicks' pamphlets a photograph of plants growing under fluorescent tubes and was attracted by that. Covering an old kitchen table which was four feet by three feet

with hardboard waterproofed with cement, and fixing round a strip of three inch by three-fourths inch by two inches above the table top, I placed in this a bed of gravel. Putting this in the sitting room, there was fixed two two-foot by twenty-inch fluorescent lights crossways over the table.

The result was disappointing and plants in flower stopped flowering and showed no signs of starting again throughout the whole winter. They kept quite healthy and green but it was impossible to maintain a minimum temperature of sixty degrees and I decided that was the reason the plants didn't bloom. It may be possible to maintain the proper temperature in a centrally heated house but not in our houses with badly fitting doors.

In the coming winter I have fixed curtains round the table and a cover over the top and am fixing two twenty-five volt lighting bulbs under the table. I am hoping to see the plants continue in bloom.

Unfortunately the multiplication of the African violets does not bring harmony amongst the established inhabitants of the greenhouse. The poor cacti have been pushed back into a corner and they resent — Oo — Oo — I am sure I did not put my hand near an *Echinocactus Grusonii* as I was putting a pot containing a *Pilocereus Eupharbroider* back besides a *Cereus Chalybacus* but I received a bunch of barbed spines in the back of my hand.

The following may not interest most but in case it did help another it would be worthwhile relating. Resulting from the aforementioned physical disability I suffer considerable pain and discomfort, especially during the night, and I frequently have to get up round about two a. m., move about a bit and spend the rest of the night in the arm chair in the sitting room. Formerly this was a dispiriting experience as the fire in the open grate had gone out and the temperature was round about forty degrees. But what a difference now! On opening the door there is the cheerful light from the fluorescent tubes and a cozy warmth from the banked up Redfyre. And it would be difficult to convince me there is not an expression of welcome and sympathy from the dear little faces grouped over the table. This alone makes the cost of cultivating the plants worthwhile.

Then there are other events still to look forward to. The experiments with hybridizing have not been attempted yet. I am looking forward to the results from treatment of certain varieties with colchicine. Then there will be the coming into flower of the seedlings, and, 'Who knows' that there will not be one amongst them equivalent to a Nottingham Pioneer. end

Rooted Cuttings Leaves Small Plants

PAULINE KUNTZ

Route 4

Winterset, Iowa

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A NAIL KEG OF VIOLETS

Mrs. George Neemann, Hebron, Nebraska

An ordinary nail keg has been made into a violet tree for me, and as there are sixteen holes in the keg, I can have a wonderful assortment of African violets in a very small place. The picture shows how wonderfully the plants had grown and had started to bloom six months after they were planted.

The nail keg I use is eighteen inches high and ten inches across the top. My husband drilled one-inch holes all around the keg, spacing them so that there are sixteen holes. Then I painted it inside and out with a good yellow paint, as I like a light background for my African violets.

For the planting medium I used half peat moss and half sphagnum moss and added one-half gallon of fine sand and a coffee can of charcoal. This I wet well with rain water and some plant food, using one-fourth teaspoon of Hyponex to a quart of water.

Before putting any of the moss mixture into the keg, I put a tube two and one-half inches in diameter in the center of the keg and filled the tube with oyster shells. This tube is left in until the planting is done, then it is pulled out. As the tube was open on the bottom, the shells stayed in the keg and these help give the roots air.

To plant the keg, I first put a two inch layer of oyster shells in the bottom, then the moss mix,



This is the Nail Keg six months after it was planted.

filling it up to the first row of holes. Small plants out of two inch pots were used, and it is important that each one has a good root system. Holding a plant in the hole with one hand, pack the moss around the roots.

Repeat this for the rest of the holes on this level, then fill in with more moss until you reach the next row of holes. Continue until the keg is full. Finally a few plants are put in the top. Watering should be done from the top once a week or when the moss is dry on top. I use Hyponex once a month.

These African violets certainly are thriving in their nail keg home, they never stopped blooming all summer, and they are a beautiful sight at all times. end

HOW IS YOUR PH?

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The pH of a soil is often misunderstood to mean the amount of lime present. Soils are made up of various acid-forming and alkali-forming minerals, humus materials, and chemical compounds, all of which have an effect on pH. The meat that goes into a stew tastes like meat, the carrots like carrots, but the stew doesn't taste like any one ingredient. The entire "stew" of a soil determines its pH, not any individual component. Lime or acids just help to shift the balance.

Soils high in clay and humus are well "buffered" against change of pH. The more particles present, the more surface area and pore spaces there are in a soil. Such a soil requires a lot of lime to make it alkaline or a lot of sulfur to make it acid. Sandy soils, or soils low in humus,

are poorly buffered, and a little lime or sulfur added creates a big change in pH.

A soil of pH 6 is ten times as acid as one of pH 7. A soil of pH 5 is one hundred times as acid as one of pH 7, and a pH 4 one thousand times as acid. Most charts to demonstrate pH show even spacings between the numbers, and are misleading.

Add lime to a soil, and the calcium and magnesium from it will bully many of the hydrogen ions into being leached away by rains or watering, thereby making the soil less acid. Add sulfur to a soil, and it causes domestic splits in the water molecules present, stealing an ion of oxygen to make itself into sulfate, and leaving a batch of free hydrogen ions running around loose acidifying the soil. end

HOW TO FORM OR ORGANIZE A PERMANENT SOCIETY OR CLUB

Rene Edmundson, 417 Arlington Avenue, East McKeesport, Pennsylvania

There are preliminary steps to organizing, which are usually taken care of by an organizer or other state or national officer if the group to be organized is one that is affiliated with a state or national organization. If the group to be organized is to be the nucleus of a new state or national organization or merely a local group with no affiliation, these preliminary steps may be taken care of by the person or persons most interested in the forming of the new group.

The first preliminary steps are to find a place and set a time for holding the first meeting. This may be discussed with others or be decided by just two or three, if it is fairly certain that others will find the selection convenient enough to assure the desired attendance to form the new group. The next step is to let those interested know that the meeting is to be held and this may be done by several methods. Invitations may be extended by telephone or through the mails, if it is desired to keep the group selective, or they may be sent to other groups to be read in their meetings, or they may be published in the newspapers. However, care should be taken in extending invitations to the first meeting or those doing the preliminary work may find themselves faced with the problem of not wanting to become a member after the group becomes organized.

About ten or fifteen minutes after the appointed time of the meeting, the person most responsible in making the arrangements for it should go to the front of the room and call those assembled to order. When all are quiet he or she should say either "Will someone please nominate a chairman?" or "I move Mr. Black act as chairman." If the former form is used many names may be submitted, the chairman repeating each as he or she hears them called out but if the latter form is used it requires a second the same as any other motion and if other names are to be submitted before the vote is taken on that of Mr. Black the motion must be amended to include the other names with the amendment also requiring a second. Plain nominations offered as such do not require a second but when they are put in the form of a motion or resolution they do have to be seconded, and usually the purpose of putting them in this manner is to limit the nomination to just one name. In case more than one name is submitted such as Mr. Black, Mr. Brown or Mr. Grey, the chairman must call for the vote on each name in the order named until one name receives a majority vote, after which there is no need to vote on any of the remaining names. In this type of voting which is called 'viva voce' meaning by voice, it is necessary to vote against all names that precede that of the person you wish to vote for or you may not have the chance of voting on their name because as soon as any name receives a majority vote

the voting ends even if the name receiving the majority vote only received two votes, as long as only one was cast against that name they would be the recipient of a majority vote, therefore elected.

After the chairman has been selected he takes the chair and any other officers such as secretary and treasurer are selected in the same manner after which the chair asks the secretary to read the call for the meeting and then those interested in forming the new group are given the opportunity of expressing their reasons for the forming of the group and they should have a resolution drawn up to present which would conclude that it was the consensus of opinion of the group gathered at this meeting that a society be formed in the name of _____ for the purpose of _____.

This resolution would be open to discussion and amendment, after being seconded and then should be voted on, the vote deciding whether or not the new society then existed. If the vote was in the affirmative the only other business that would need to be done would be to set a time and place to hold the next meeting. Other things that could be done would be, appoint or elect a committee to draw up by-laws, decide on the amount of the dues and if an initiation fee should be charged and the number of meetings to hold each year, etc.

The second meeting opens with the officers of the previous meeting serving until permanent officers are elected. The chairman directs the secretary to read the minutes of the previous meeting after which anyone wishing to add to or correct the minutes should speak up and without waiting for a motion if there are no additions or corrections the chairman announces the minutes stand approved as read or if there are no additions or corrections the chairman announces the minutes stand approved as read or if there are corrections, they stand approved as corrected asking the secretary to fill in the corrections. If a committee on by-laws was appointed or elected, the next order of business is announced as being that of hearing the report of the committee on by-laws. The chairman of the committee makes the report and moves the adoption which requires a second, after which the chairman says; "It has been moved and seconded that we adopt the by-laws reported by the committee, the question is on this adoption and the by-laws will now be read," (this reading may be dispensed with by general consent) and then the reading by paragraph for the purpose of amendments begins with either the secretary or the chairman of the committee doing the reading. When amendment to a paragraph is finished the next paragraph is read and no vote

Continued on next page

THRIPS

Dorothy Ashton, Hightstown, New Jersey

If there are silvery, bleached appearing spots and dark brown dots often on the undersurfaces of your African violet leaves, you can suspect thrips. The flowers will also have whitish streaks and brown water-soaked blotches. There will be malformation, and the flowers are often shed prematurely.

Thrips are tiny, slender insects which you can hardly see with the naked eye. They are very active, and, upon pulling an infested flower apart, they can be seen scurrying around. end

Continued from preceeding page

taken on the paragraphs individually. When all have been read the chairman says the whole by-laws are now open to amendment and any additional sections are now offered and changes made necessary by amendments taken care of before the question of adopting the by-laws as amended is put to vote. After adopting the by-laws the chair announces that they have been adopted and it is customary to request those who wish to become members to pay the initiation fee or dues set therein and sign the constitution or by-laws, thereby becoming members. The secretary reads the names of those who have signed and the next order of business is the election of permanent officers according to the requirements of the by-laws, and after the election the chairman or president as they may be called executes any other business as may be required by the laws that have just been adopted and from here on they are a permanent society or club. end

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3 1/4" sqatty	2.35—5 lb.	4.10—7 lb.	7.00—10 lb.
4" reg. & sqty.	3.00—5 lb.	5.50—8 lb.	9.25—12 lb.
4" square	3.00—5 lb.	5.50—8 lb.	9.25—12 lb.
2 3/4" saucers	1.25—2 lb.	2.25—3 lb.	4.25—4 lb.
3 3/4" saucers	1.50—2 lb.	2.75—3 lb.	4.75—5 lb.
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VIOLETS by ELIZABETH

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QUESTION BOX



Lois Minehan

29 Circuit Drive

Binghamton, N. Y.

Q. As I have never seen anything about rust on the back of African violets leaves, that I and some of my violet friends were bothered with at one time. Will you please tell me what causes rust and what to do for it? Will it kill the plant?

Miss Elsie Reiter, Benson, Ill.

A. I have had rust on the back of leaves but it has never killed the plant. This may be caused from salts that form on the soil around the rim of the pot. I would like to hear further comment from other readers about this condition. Thrips may also be suspected.

Q. I would like to find out the name of a violet that I own. It is a double white and the petal is pointed with a purple line on the edge. There is no pistil. It has a pale green anther and dark green ovary which you can see. The flower is about one inch across with about twenty petals, flat like straw flowers. By looking at it you would say it is a straw flower.

Alice Mae Clary, Beloit, Wis.

Q. I would like your advice as to why several of my violets during the past few months have had their roots rot off, or the plant rots just above the roots. Is this from too much water? Previous to last summer, I watered my violets at the top, but since having a large tray made to hold most of them, I have been watering in the tray twice a week. The last two or three weeks, I have gone back to top watering to find out if they do better that way. Some plants that rotted off were young ones, others mature, but I don't think age has much to do with this trouble.

Lucile M. Luttrupp, Manson, Wash.

A. From the report that you send I think that your crown and root rot is caused from too much water.

Q. Will anyone who has extra seed pods be willing to give them to me to send as a gift to foreign members? I get many requests.

Alma Wright, P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tenn.

Q. Where can I buy VC-13 Nemacide? I find tiny white thread-like worms in the bottom saucers of my violets after I have watered them. They move about very rapidly. Are there a type of nematode?

Pauline Heffner, Grand Island, Neb.

A. VC-13 can be obtained from your local seed store. Symphyllids are tiny thread like worms that are often seen in the bottom saucers plants sit in. They feed on the organic matter in the soil and are probably harmless. The tiny thread-like worms in the saucers also sound like spring-tails. They are not a type of nematode and will not hurt your plant. A complete drying out of the pot, soil and saucer does tend to eliminate them.

Q. Can anyone tell me where I can purchase the violet named Pansy? One that will propagate true. My last purchase (a cutting) gave me two plants. One is a very beautiful bluish lavender and the other one is a clear white. The foliage is the same but where is the blue flower with the white border?

Mrs. Clark Moore, Sycamore, Ohio

A. The only way to get a true plant of Pansy is to find one in bloom and buy it. Even then you can not be sure of what you will get when you try raising plants from the leaves.

Q. About three months after installing a new Flora Cart in the basement, aphids visited my plants. Is there any known cause, and what is the best remedy for exterminating them without injury to plants?

Mrs. L. H. Prince, Massena, N. Y.

A. It must be that the aphids came in from open windows or on some other garden flower as I have never heard of aphids just happening to get on violets in the basement. There are many sprays and bombs on the market to take care of this trouble. Be sure and follow the manufacturer's directions.

Q. I have been growing African violets for only about two and a half years. I have several problems with which I hope you can help me. I do have one plant which was sent to my daughter six and a half years ago when she was ill. Up until recently this plant has been beautiful. But, about three months ago the large outer leaves started turning brown and dying. Now, the plant has only a few leaves left. The new growth in the center of the plant looks very healthy. The neck of the plant has grown very long and crooked, and is a rusty brown color. I

am wondering if it would kill my plant to strip away all of the older leaves, leaving only the new healthy growth, cut off the whole root-system just below the crown and try to re-root it in vermiculite. Or would it re-root? If it would I could get rid of the ugly crooked neck and plant it in a smaller pot which I feel would be beneficial. I guess if I were smart I would contribute the trouble to old age and discard the plant but since it is my first plant I love it dearly and would like to save it if possible. Now, on to other problems. Last spring several of my plants began to look sick. The edges of the leaves began to turn under and a lot of the new growth looked deformed. On the underside of some of the leaves I noticed some rust colored spots (very small). Then on some leaves brown, watery looking splotches appeared — and these splotches spread. The plants that had the leaves with curled-under edges and deformed new growth were under fluorescent lights. Could too much light cause this? The plants with the other symptoms were under lights and also in the windows. I have gone through the past issues of the Magazine and am completely confused. One time I think it is cyclamen mite and the next time I think it is thrips.

Mrs. Jack Rutledge, Plainview, Texas

A. I think that you have the answer for your first problem. In the next problem it is hard to diagnose without seeing the plant but I am sure that if you would start a spraying program it would help. If you are afraid to use sodium selenate try Optox. Readers, have you any suggestions? Do please let me hear from you.

Q. Can you refer me to an authoritative article on the use of wick pots for African violets? I am unable to buy these pots in large quantities and wonder if you know where I can obtain them. My own experience is not great but I find them excellent for everything. Most of the

growing was done in a New York city apartment where I left them almost every week-end. The wick pot I feel accounts for their thriving but I should very much like to hear from growers of long experience the pros and cons of both the wick and the plastic material. I see plastic pots are advertised in the Magazine but can't find anything about plastic wick pots.

Barbara J. Dry, Blairstown, N. J.

A. Readers, your help please!

Q. I am a member of the African Violet Society and am hoping you may be able to let me know where to get in touch with a Mr. F. M. Haga & Son who were mentioned in the June Magazine on Page 10. I would love to learn where I could get a plant of Gold Lace or Leaf of Gold which Mr. and Mrs. Haga had on display at the convention.

Mrs. Allena Smith, Davison, Mich.

A. Mr. F. M. Haga & Son, 503 Doris St., Charlotte, N. C.

Q. I would like to know if there is a handbook out with pictures of the leaves and flowers so one could identify some of those one receives without labels or names.

Dr. Carlos Ottolina, Caracas Venezuela, S.A.

Q. I am trying to locate some African violets that I want. Do you know where I can obtain them? 1. Blue Spoon, 2. Von Detrick, 3. Azure Glory, 4. Lilac Queen, 5. Blue Beauty 6. Old Blue Amethyst and 7. Jade.

Mrs. Frank Mueller, Darlington, Wisc.

A. If you will write to some of the dealers that advertise in the Magazine I am sure that they will be able to help you although most of these varieties have been replaced by bigger and better plants. They could advise you the names of some of the newer ones even though they were no longer growing these varieties.

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ROOTED LEAVES 50¢ each
(Many have clumps of plantlets)

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Black Magic Supreme	Pink Caress
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Blue Pom	Rosalinde
Cavalier Supreme	Rose Glow
Chartreuse Lace	Rosy Dawn
Day Tide	Saint Louis
Dixie Moonbeam Girl	Sea Foam
Double Dubonnet	Sea Sprite
Double Fantasy	Select Pansy Girl
Double Fantasy Ann	Show Champion
Drops O' Wine	Show Queen
Ember Pink	Silver Flute
Fringed Snow Prince	Spic
Frosted Madonna	Span
Holiday Sport	Splash
Holly Halo	Starlight Blue
Hollywood Ace	Swirling Petticoats
Little Aristocrat	Union Co. Spotlight
Longifolia Dbl. Blue	Vallin Pk. Petticoats
Long. Dbl. Purple	White Pride
Longifolia Dbl. Red	White Pride Supreme
Lorna Doone	White Puff

AFRICA — Fring., single purple, chartreuse edge.

BITTERSWEET — Large fringed cerise single.

CLARISSA HARRIS — Fringed deep pink single.

COTTON TOP — Variegated blue & wh. Geneva.

DRESDEN DREAM — Fringed sing. pink, chart. edge.

GLADNESS — Large dbl. lt. pink, dark fol.

HONEY — Dbl. fringed pink & white.

INVADER — Dbl. ruffled pink, star shaped.

MISS PINK — Dbl. pink & white girl.

MISS RUFFLES — Single fringed blue & wh.

NANCY HANKS — Large single fringed lt. blue.

PINK CELEBRITY — Large deep dbl. pink girl.

PINK CUPID — Heavy blooming dbl. pink girl.

PINK FEATHER — Single, fringed lt. pink girl.

PINK MAGIC — Large cerise single, Neptune fol.

POLYANNA — Large fringed lav. single girl.

PRELUDE — Dbl. var. pink and white, sturdy.

RUFFLED BI — Lav. & wh. bicolor, large fring. single.

RUTHIE — Dbl. fringed pink, dark foliage.

SEA QUEEN — Single fringed blue, dark girl leaf.

SHOW STAR — Perfect blue star on single pink flower.

SNOW PRINCESS — Lav. bicolor single, albino fol.

SPARKLING WATERS — Variegated purp. on blue sing.

STAR BLUE — Huge star shaped dk. blue single.

STAR PINK — Large star shaped med. pink sing.

STRIKE ME PINK — Deep dbl. pink girl, dark fol.

SUNDAY BEST — Fringed single med. blue, chart. edge.

T V CUT VELVET — Dbl. fringed red, chartreuse edge.

T V ROSE PROM — Single fringed red, chartreuse edge.

TRUZY — Fringed blue & white single.

VALLIN PINK — Fringed single deep pink, chart. edge.

WHITE ORCHID — Large heavily fringed single white.

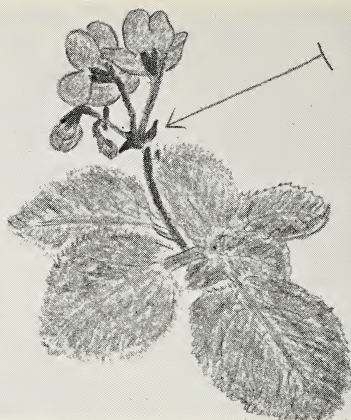
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Will this be a new plant?

Q. Recently, when one of my violets was in bloom, as each flower faded I picked off the dead blossom and part of the stem (back to the two small leaves indicated by the arrow in the enclosed sketch). I did this to give the tiny buds a chance to develop and bloom. As these smaller buds blossomed and faded, I snipped their stems back to the "twin leaves" also. As the remaining stem with its two small leaves appeared strong and healthy, I decided to let it stay on the plant until it bore further blossoms or withered as such stems usually do. A week or so later I examined the plant and found that instead of fading, the stem was thicker and stronger than before, and the two small leaves had increased to easily four times their previous size. This is a development I have not observed before, (perhaps because I have been too hasty in snipping off stems) and I find no reference to it in either the new or old edition of Helen Van Pelt Wilson's book on violets. At present there is no sign of new flower buds on the stem and I am wondering if you can tell me what the eventual development of this stem might be. Does the violet, perhaps, use this method to produce new plants, in addition to developing new crowns from the base of the plant? I would greatly appreciate any information you can give me on this point. Also could you suggest the name of a grower from whom I could buy seed with reasonable assurance of getting seed from particularly desired varieties. I want the seed

Doris Leigh

— home grown quality plants —

Write for list

P. O. BOX 51

MONTVALE, N. J.

for my own personal use, to try to make up for lack of variety in plants available commercially in the area where we are presently located.

Major (retired) Wm. A. Haendiges,
Gen. Del. APO 207 Unit #1,
c/o Postmaster, N. Y.

A. The plant you describe sounds like a hanging basket variety. This does happen sometimes. I have a plant that has gone that way but no further blossoms or flower stems have formed. It will be interesting to hear from other readers on this subject.

Hints, requests, answers and what have you.

I would like to buy back numbers of the following:

Vol. 2, No. 3; Vol. 5, No. 2; Vol. 6, No. 2.

Anyone having these and would like to sell them please write to: Mrs. Geo. R. White, 29435 Orchard Lake Rd., Farmington, Mich.

I am writing to ask if there are any new members of the National Society who would be interested in buying some of my back numbers of the Violet Magazine? I have Vol. 6, 7, 8, 9 complete in Binders, reasonably priced. Mrs. Ruth Jessup, 431 South Jay St., Denver 15, Colo.

"TWO FLOWER STEMS PER LEAF"

Answer to Dr. Nearpass's request in the 1957 June issue.

List of double flower stem plants.

Gorgeous Blue Wonder	Ulery
Blue Warrior	McFarland
Pink Ideal	Tonkadale
Pink Rocket	Tonkadale
Pink Delight	Ulery
Frivolella	Tonkadale
Ice Blue Girl	

Innocence	Ulery
Kehl's Dark Leaf Bicolor	Kehl
Mentor Boy	Merkle
Norseman	Armacost & Royston
Wine Velvet	Tinari

Thus far Cydonia has for the most part only one stem but that stem has up to 18 blooms that are very-long lasting.

Carol Loudon

Leaf Trouble

To some of the members who write about their violet leaves turning brown on the tips and then rotting: I feel there is some connection between this ailment and soil salts. I've had some of the same troubles, but it is always on my older plants that have been potted for a year or more. Until recently I've consistently watered all plants from the bottom and been negligent about top watering and flushing the salts back down through the soil. Have had a bad habit of filling the pot too full of soil and top watering therefore took longer and was more trouble than watering from the bottom. Now I am breaking myself of the bad watering habits and am anxious to see if the leaf rot doesn't cease to a great degree. Another of my ideas is that the soil salts are one of the causes of the older plants becoming "wobbly" in their pots — the salts have destroyed all the smaller roots. As I said, this seems to affect only the older plants.

Mrs. Ted Lemach, Colville, Wash.

If any of you have had similar problems or have heard of anybody having some of these problems and have found an answer won't you please send along your ideas and solutions. Good spring growing to you all and I do hope to see a lot of you in Rochester in April. end

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CHAFF FROM CRICKEN FARM



Vera Covert, Amsterdam, New York

Hi, there Neighbors! . . . and a special Hello to you Pat. It's that "cup of coffee and conversation" time again. Days sure do scoot by fast. Maybe it's because I'm getting older. I can look back to a day when Christmas was over and all the tinsel and glitter packed away . . . then there was quite a lapse of time before we got out the lawnmower and removed the storm windows. Now it seems that snow shovel and lawnmower follow each other in such rapid succession, I'm never sure whether we are putting them away or getting them out.

I had expected to introduce a guest to you folks today. Must be the March winds blew him off course. So we'll just put another log on the fire, settle down with our coffee cups and talk about our hobby. It's never a dull conversation when African violet folks get together.

You might be interested in what I told the members of an African violet club not too long ago. I was asked to speak on the, "Fundamentals of Growing." Just look at that word "fundamentals" . . . then take the first three letters F-U-N. There you have the key note to this hobby of ours in a nut-shell. First of all, it should be FUN. There are several other words which you can make also . . . all related to this hobby . . . such as MEN, who seem just as successful as women, and in some cases even excel the "fair sex." Then there is the word F-U-N-D . . . mighty nice to have, yet without it we can still add to our collection by trading with friends. See how many more words YOU can make. There are several more, one in particular will express annoyance in the "Nth" degree . . . but should not be in a lady's vocabulary. However, I have said it with much force and gusto on several occasions, when a leaf was broken off a nicely shaped show plant . . . or a colchicine experiment went hay wire.

But let's get back to discussion of plants. Here it is . . . almost Convention time again. Don't you wonder what we'll see this spring that will be outstanding and different? It doesn't seem possible that these hybridizers can keep giving us so many beautiful new plants. The old original Saintpaulia ancestors must be thoroughly confused by now and probably don't even realize that these glamorous new beauties are even remotely related to them. Some of Lyn Lyon's newest ones are so far removed from old Ionantha

and Blue Boy it is difficult to see any family resemblance. There is one in particular, a glowing color I can't describe . . . excuse me a moment . . . someone is knocking at my door . .

Why, Grandma! . . . come in . . . and Paul Arnold . . . for goodness' sake, I thought you were lost. Come in by the fire . . . take off your coats. Would you like some hot coffee? And how is it you both arrive together?

"Well, fer Land Sakes, if you would jest stop a-talkin' fer a mite, a body could git to explain. I was in the kitchen, makin molasses cookies when this feller knocked at my door. He looked awful sprised when I opened it . . . sorta backed up and said he was a-lookin' fer Cricken Farm. Guess he turned in my drive, thinkin' it was yours, but he ain't the first one to make that mistake, is he? By the way his nose kept a-twichin, I knew he smelt my cookies. He looks like a growed up man, but I figgered he could find room fere a few cookies an' a glass of milk. I recollect my Granny used to say that a man is but a small boy growed up. It didn't take him long to git to the kitchen, either onct I told him to come in. An' he got to lookin' at my plants while I took out the last batch of cookies.

"Bless my soul, if he didn't start telling me the names of all those peezee vines you gave me. I didn't bother to keep all the little sticks you put in, 'cause it didn't make no never minds to me what they was called jest so long as they kept a-growin' and a-bloomin'. An' he told me I was a-growin' a lot of Jes-nary somethins. I said, 'Shucks, no them's jest African violets and some traily vines.' But he called 'em all by fancy names . . . an' said they was all one big family. It was right interestin'. He finally said he was purty late and guessed he better git over here. I didn't think you'd mind if I come along too . . . I wanted to hear more . . . an besides, I was aimin to fetch you over some fresh cookies anyways."

Dear me, Grandmaw, don't you ever run out of breath? You know you are always welcome, with or without cookies. So let's all get comfortable by the fire. I can see that we need a fresh pot of coffee. YOU may be stuffed with Grandmaw's cookies, Paul, but I haven't had any yet. Please keep Grandma entertained and I'll be back in a jiffy.

Paul Arnold speaking: "While Vera is out of the room she had better be looking for a platter of corn bread to feed me. I'll need corn, plenty of it, instead of molasses cookies to help me match her mood of playfulness. This kittenish kind of make-believe writing which Mrs. Covert does so well (and her readers appreciate so much) is too precious for me. I'm just not the type to carry on the cuteness of her 'Grandmother routine.'

"Make-believe writing seems especially suited for the nice people who would form a Society and publish a magazine about the Saint-paulias while pretending, by choice of a nickname, that these charming plants belong to the Viola-ceae family, along with the pansies and Johnny-Jump-Ups, instead of recognizing them as members of the Gesneriaceae family of plants. And the good people in the African Violet Society have imitators in carrying on that sort of make-believe. Another group, concerned with house plants in the same Gesneriad family, calls itself a Gloxinia Society, but these good people are really concerned not with Gloxinias but with Sinningias.

"A great many people in both organizations make believe that they cannot call plants by the right names, because the names are too difficult — to difficult to pronounce, to spell, or to remember.

"I suppose that it is easier for some of us to say 'African violet' with its six syllables than it is to speak the three syllables of 'Saintpaulia,' but I suspect the real difficulty lies in our uncertainty about proper pronunciation rather than our unfamiliarity with the Saints.

"Should one pronounce the last syllable 'ee-yuh' or should it sound like 'eye-ay'? Should one risk being thought ignorant by saying 'Saintpaul'-eye-ay' when 'Saintpaul'-ee-yuh' is the accepted diction? Better stick to 'African violet.' Nobody will laugh if you say 'Vy'-o-let' instead of 'Vee'-o-let'.

"The so-called 'scientific' names of plants are always Latinized and they are usually printed in books and magazines in *italics* to set them apart from English or common names. This practice sometimes is frightening to people who were never Latin scholars or who attended school so many years ago they have forgotten how to say *E pluribus unum*, which appears on the back sides of U. S. coins.

"Latin names are so difficult to speak and to understand as we may be panicked into believing. Latin names for plants can be mighty useful to you and to me for the very reason which led the Swedish botanist, Linnaeus, to employ them in his now universally adopted plant naming system instead of his native tongue. I don't understand a word of Dutch or Portuguese and only a smattering of French and German, but I was able to talk understandingly about plants with people in various parts of Europe who hadn't the remotest understanding of our

English and American names for such plants. This was possible because we used the universally understood Latin names.

Proper pronunciation of Latin names shouldn't frighten anyone. Latin, after all, is a dead language. Nobody today really knows how a Latinized plant name would have been pronounced in Caesar's time. The Latin scholars can only make an educated guess, based on poetic rhymes and other literary rather than auditory evidence. So your pronunciation of a Latin name for a plant is just as good as mine. If you speak of 'to-may'-toes' and I mention 'to-mah'-toes' we will get the same fruit into the salad in spite of our different speaking practices.

"Many people who have mastered the art of growing Saintpaulias on a window sill have been tempted to grow the more unusual members of this fascinating plant family in their homes. This enthusiasm for a broader acquaintance with the family is dampened sometimes by the problem of coping with unfamiliar names. Not only are the plants strange, unusual, and wonderful, but they bear names like Sinningia, Kohleria, Recheimeria, Ramonda, and Columnea.

"A lover of house plants who has learned that the plant genus *Saintpaulia* was named after the man who discovered the first one, Baron Walter von Saint Paul-Illaire, ought to be able to figure

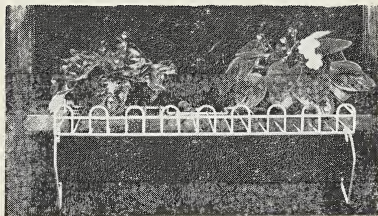
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HARVEY J. RIDGE

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out that the plant genus *Smithiantha* was named after somebody with the common English name of Smith. Actually it honors a lady artist, Matilda Smith, who worked at the famous Kew Gardens in England, drawing pictures of flowers for many years. Plant names ought to lose some of their strangeness when we realize that they are, in so many cases, the names of people which have been transferred to flowers.

"Before they were named *Smithiantha*, these decorative plants which are so well adapted to a window sill garden, were called *Naegelia*, after a German botany professor, Karl von Naegeli. The name had to be replaced to avoid confusion with a fungus genus which had been named for Naegeli four years earlier.

"The *Sinningias* (which most people call *Gloxinias*) were named for Wilhelm Sinning, who used to be a Gardener at the University of Bonn on the Rhine. The true *Gloxinia*, which is rarely seen in the United States today, was named to honor Benjamin Peter Gloxin, a physician and botanical writer of Colmar who was active in 1785.

"The beautiful *Kohlerias*, with their soft, velvety leaves, were named after Michael Kohler, who taught at the University in Zurich, Switzerland. *Rechsteinerias*, with their brilliant flowers and tolerance of indoor growing conditions, owe their name to Pfarrer Rechsteiner, another German botanist. The hardy, rock garden *Gesneriad* from the Pyrenees, *Ramonda*, was named after Baron L. F. E. von Raymond of Carbondières.

"The lovely trailing *Columnas*, with their glowing dragons-mouth flowers, were named for the Italian botanist, Colonna, revising the spelling to the Latinized form of his name, in accordance with botanical practice. The whole family to which the *Saintpaulia* and all its charming cousins belong, the *Gesneriaceae*, was named for Conrad Gesner, the celebrated botanist of Zurich.

"Maybe some of Vera's readers who have stuck with us this far will have found a grain or two amidst the chaff to nourish a new resolve

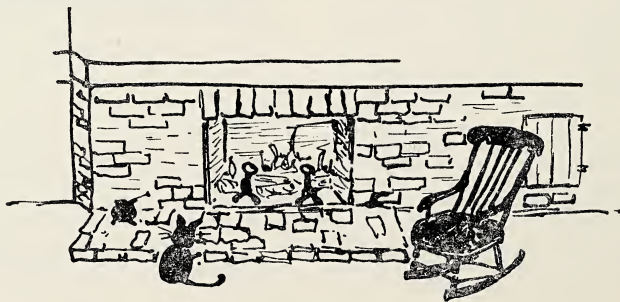
to treat plants as courteously as people and call them by their right names."

Thank you, Paul, for an interesting talk. I remember the first time you flung some of those names at me. I couldn't pronounce them — much less spell them — and there I was, trying to write them on labels! It seemed then that I just NEVER would be able to remember them. Yet as I grew the plants, re-read the labels and said them over a few times, I found they became familiar and not at all impossible to say. You will notice I make no comment on ease of spelling, because, to be truthful, I still will not take a prize in that field!

However, good readers, your pleasure in growing these strange and beautiful relatives is not based on first learning to pronounce names. As you grow them, you'll want to call each by its own correct name just the way you do each of your children. What am I saying! I call our younger son "Sparky" or "Chip" . . . and I have heard you, Paul Arnold, refer to your daughter, Betsy, by names other than the one with which she was christened. So grow your various *Gesneriads*, folks, enjoy them, learn about them, and for awhile you may want to do what we did in the hospital once. A patient gave birth to triplets and couldn't decide on names. So we labeled them "Smith A," "Smith B," and "Smith C." It identified them, at least, temporarily. That was of the greatest necessity, as they were premature and had to be fed with care. That was several years ago . . . I doubt that they grew up under our odd nomenclature.

Well, that's about it for this time. Don't forget, folks, I'll be looking for you in Rochester. I do hope you'll come say "hello" to me. It's always such fun to meet in person all the nice people with whom I have corresponded. You will find me at Lyndon Lyon's display. Ruth Lyon is the peppy one . . . I'm the old one . . . so you can easily tell us apart.

And now, neighbors, it's time to wash up the coffee cups and bring this column to a close. Thank you again, Paul, for being with us . . . and thank you, Grandma, for the cookies. 'Bye now, folks, see you in Rochester at National Convention. **end**



Liza T. Damron, St. Petersburg, Florida

My hobby has outgrown available space, so unless a violet plant looks good in every respect out it goes. I felt sure that one sick looking plant was not infested with nematodes, inasmuch as in mixing my Nature's Way formula I always saturate the finished batch with a solution of VC-13 as double insurance against nematodes which are even in our local sands. I dumped this unhappy looking plant out under the bottle brush tree in my patio. In my haste to dispose of it, I left the label with the plant. Imagine my surprise and also thrill when I glimpsed pretty blooms under the tree last month; it was on October 29th when many people were shovelling snow. On investigation I found not just one plant but six well grown plants all in bloom and perfectly healthy. Along side was the label — Select Double Garnet. It had not been watered all summer, was in a western exposure, had survived the hot summer sun, heavy rains and many dry days, and was now a big pot full of lovely, healthy, blooming plants. Your guess is as good as mine as to how it survived. By the Grace of God, I'm sure. Needless to say, when next spring rolls around I will put my surplus plants under that same mothering tree.

I have a hanging basket on my porch in which is a plant of New Jersey King, which has been there over eighteen months, in the same soil and same place, and never been without blossoms. It is in the glassed-in Florida room which has obscure glass on the south and east sides. Last week I discovered a very unusual bloom, even larger than the regular ones, being a complete circle of six petals. The anthers were very large and also in a circle of six. This may not be strange to some growers but it was new to me so I asked my good violet friend, Mary Chamberlain, to bring over several mature blooms of her Supreme Snow Prince to use to propagate it. She did this, and I hope we will soon see a seed pod. This morning I discovered another bloom just like the first one.

I have some seed coming up now but where to put the seedlings is the big question. I do not have a greenhouse. About four weeks ago we installed two huge trays at table height on the aforementioned porch where there already were many shelves all filled with plants. I see that many of the plants on the new trays are in bud now; they were under lights before they were moved outside. I have many plants in the windows, on tables, and under lights in the living room. All young plants and leaves are under lights on the other enclosed porch. My husband put in a piece of colored plastic screening (solid, but light filters through just right) in the south windows. The plants there bloom quicker for me than when they are under lights.

I grow most of my plants from leaves. Last spring I treated a big flat of them with gibberellic acid. They came up much quicker than usual but with only one or two babies to a leaf. I was very much disappointed with the grown plants on which I used gibberellic acid. It changed the lovely foliage so much that no one could recognize the plants unless they saw the labels. It roughened and thickened the foliage, also the blooms, and every plant put out many suckers. (Guess they came to remind me what a SUCKER I had been to use it.) I learned another lesson the hard, expensive way.

To the many friends who wrote me about the use of Cold Smoke and asked where to purchase it, it is available locally. I asked the dealer if he would ship it and he refused, so if you want it to add to your mix, write me — but PLEASE do not forget the necessary stamp for a prompt reply. It is a good organic insecticide and promotes good healthy growth, with darker foliage. end

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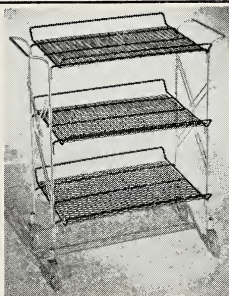
Reductions of all leaves, rooted clumps and plants. A large addressed stamped envelope for list.

Visitors welcome

SOLANGE SLIVKA

203 N. Ohio Street

Fayette, Ohio



NEW! TWO-TONE 3 TIER CART

Large capacity—Higher than most tables. Total height about 29½".

Three extra large 18½" x 11½" brass shelves. Wrought-iron-black uprights, with large full swivel clear plastic casters.

Ideal for magazines as well as plants and also makes a superb tea cart!

Price: Only \$9.45 plus \$1.00 mailing charge. (\$1.50 west of Denver)

HARVEY J. RIDGE

1126 Arthur St. Dept. M84 Wausau, Wis.

THRIPS, MEALY BUGS OR MITE FROM GIFT PLANTS OTHER THAN AFRICAN VIOLETS?

Dorothy Ashton, Hightstown, New Jersey

It is very possible for African violets to get thrips, mealy bugs or mite from an outside plant of any kind when it is brought in among your collection.

Some of these insects are air-borne, and they also may be carried by handling the plants, and by the watering can.

Your plant does not have to touch an infested plant to contact the disease.

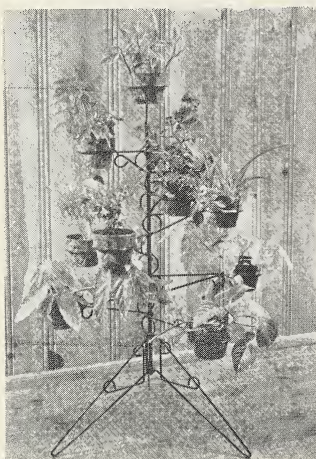
Much caution should be exercised, and a good spray should be used. end

AFRICAN VIOLETS

Three hundred varieties Window grown
Leaves, Cuttings, Small Plants Mailed.
Send 5¢ for descriptive price list and leaflet on
violet culture.

MRS. TOM HARDISTY

Corning, Iowa



NEW LIGHT WEIGHT ROTARY-ARM VIOLET TREE

Lightweight design with sturdy strength. Can be moved easily from window to window or room to room. To give plants full share of light and air, turn the arm instead of the plant! Provides variety of arrangements and permits turning plants toward you to water. Ten drip proof plastic brasstone pots included, for direct planting, or will hold clay pots up to 4" across top. Guaranteed quality materials and construction, with hard cure lacquer finish. Choose White or Wrought Iron Black. \$9.95 postpaid.

FREE CATALOG UNUSUAL HARD-TO-FIND
SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT FOR
AFRICAN VIOLETS

THE HOUSE PLANT CORNER

Box 957

Oxford, Maryland

"THE WAY OF THE SUCKERS"

Lutie Dunlap, Kansas City, Missouri

Sometimes it is like hunting for a needle in a hay stack to find them, then again you wonder how in the world you could look at that plant every day and not see those sucker leaves, as large as pennies, staring you in the face. Whether they are small or large, there is only one thing to do and this is take them off in a hurry. If you do not remove the complete sucker, it soon grows back again.

A good tool for the operation is a pencil with a sharp point. You will want a long one so that you may reach the crown of your plant easily. That is where your operation will take place.

Practically always a young plant will send out suckers and bloom stems about the same time, and almost always these look identical when very young. The first set of little leaves which are in the axils (angle between the leaf stem and the crown) of the lowest leaf petiole (stem) are usually suckers. The next set above those in the axils of the next row of leaf petioles will be the blossom stems, so be sure you do not push them off with your sharp pencil point. As the blossom stems develop, you can tell definitely they are such when the tiny buds appear. Do not be surprised to see suckers forming immediately under them, which will be in the same axil as the blossom. These can be pushed off easily, being careful not to disturb or dislodge the blossom stem.

In a few varieties as many as three blossom stems come from the same petiole, especially in a mature plant, therefore wait until you are sure they are suckers before you remove them.

Since it is the nature of African violets to develop suckers, some varieties worse than others, a constant watch should be maintained, particularly if one intends entering plants in a show for competition. Suckers are sure tagets for the judges to disqualify your plant. end

HARVEY COX

1957

IN MEMORY OF HARVEY COX

Our friend has placed in our windows
Many beautiful African violets
Which are living memories to be passed on.
His courage and faith have taught us a lesson.
His kindness and thoughtfulness shall be
Cherished by all who knew him.

From
California

GAS FOR HEATING A GREENHOUSE

Catherine B. Shepherd, Arlington, Virginia

As we go along through life, each one going in a different direction, we are often confronted with questions that we are unable to answer, so we try to find the answers.

I have a small Orlyt greenhouse. The heating problem was one of the first to come up. As I knew nothing about greenhouses, I consulted the company from whom I bought it. They sent me two gas heaters, and, when they were ready to install, it was found they were not vented. The codes in this community called for vented heaters, so these had to be returned. Eventually the right heaters came, were duly installed, and the heat turned on. That day was Friday, and when I went into the greenhouse on Saturday morning I found all the plants were dead.

The engineers from Washington, D. C. and Arlington, Virginia, came to see what the trouble was. During the time the heaters were being installed, I kept asking that the heaters be put in just as the makers recommended, but the men who were installing them would not listen. They insisted that they must go by the code. They decided the trouble was from the combustion of burnt gas with not enough oxygen. The heaters had to be re-installed, and this time were put in mainly the way the makers recommended, and not by the local code. This was an expensive item, and they were not put in as I would have liked them. Instead of the heat coming into the walks, it goes under the benches.

At that time I had put in safety pilots, which will not allow any gas to go into the greenhouse. These heaters had three regulators — hot, warm and cool.

Later, Honeywells put out another thermostat, and the local gas company asked if they could try it on my heater, to which I agreed. Although it is not like an electric one, which can be set at whatever temperature is needed, it is very satisfactory. There are nine points at which it can be regulated, and each point raises the temperature five degrees.

These heaters, which are named Red Devils, have worked very well. The only trouble has been that they will go out occasionally when the wind is high.

The question has often been asked as to which is safest — city gas or bottled gas. Many cities use natural gas, which we are doing now. Not many people are using bottled gas, but the number is growing.

Many people are under the impression that it is not safe to use gas where plants are growing.

I asked the Research Department of both gas companies, and was advised that there is no danger with either, providing there are no leaks, safety pilots are used, and there is proper ventilation.

The Propane Gas Company uses every precaution against leaks, as their gas is deadly.

Both natural gas and propane gas come from the ground. Natural gas comes as a vapor, and propane gas is a petroleum product, being somewhere between petroleum and gasoline. end

WHEN TO REPOT

One way of deciding if an African violet needs to be repotted is to remove it from the pot and check on the root system. To do this, place your fingers under the leaves of the plant to hold the soil firmly in place. Then, on a table edge, gently knock the plant out of the pot. If the root system scarcely shows in the soil, the present pot is large enough and your plant is not ready to be repotted. It should be placed carefully back in the pot and allowed to grow a complete root system before it is shifted to a larger pot.

If the ball of soil is filled with roots, a larger pot is needed for an African violet needs repotting only when the soil mass is completely filled with fine white feeding roots. Sometimes collectors wait until the roots grow out of the drainage hole in the bottom of the pot. Then and then only do they feel that the plant has outgrown its pot and needs to be shifted to a larger container. end

MITES MAY BE CARRIED

Do you know that mites can be carried on your hands from plant to plant? Some collectors believe that mites are also air-borne and that in the summer they may be carried by a breeze through an open window to window-sill plants, if there is a mite infested plant near by out of doors.

It is a wise idea when you are given or when you purchase a new plant, to isolate it for a month or so. If a disease or trouble of any kind develops, you will not have exposed your entire plant collection. During the time a plant is isolated, whenever you have occasion to handle it be careful to cleanse your hands afterwards. Do not take chances by going from your isolated plant to your plant collection without first washing your hands. Prevent disease rather than cure it. Beware of new plants. end

SHOW News and Views

● **THE CHICO AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** displayed a garden in the Chico Silver Dollar Fair with the theme of "Out Door Living." The garden chairman was Mrs. Kathryn Whitney, chairman of violets was Mrs. Doris Picchi.

● **THE TAHOMA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** of Tacoma, Washington, held a non-competitive show and plant sale June 1-2, 1957, at School's Fur Shop. The theme was "African Violets in the Home." A number of interesting planters were exhibited. Mrs. Luke Scholl served as chairman of the show.

● **THE MOHAWK VALLEY AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** held its annual violet show at Schenectady, New York, April 27 - 28, 1957, at Shaughnessy Hall. The woodland scene which took up the entire stage was backed by a crepe paper fan the height of the backdrop. The fan, in shades from pink to purple, illustrated the theme of the show "Fantasy in Pink and Purple."

Mrs. Frederick Theilemann of Burnt Hills won the gold cup with her lovely arrangement. Queen of the show went to Mrs. Gerald Ryan of Amsterdam and runner-up went to Mr. and Mrs. Harry Penistan. In the commercial class queen of the show went to Mrs. Leah Rivenburg of Amsterdam and runner-up went to Mr. and Mrs. Theilemann.

Sweepstakes winners were Mr. and Mrs. Penistan in amateur class, with Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Fulton of West Albany as second. In commercial class Mrs. Rivenburg first, with Mr. and Mrs. Theilemann second.

● **THE WEST SHORE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** held an exhibit at the Madison Branch Library in Lakewood, Ohio, October 21, 1957. Navy Bouquet shown by Mrs. Vera Sinnot took queen of the show. Gent's Blue Cluster, also Mrs. Sinnot's plant, took an award for the largest blooming plant. The award for smallest blooming plant went to Mrs. Martha Page for a plant of Pink Cheer. A gift certificate was given to Mrs. Agnes Blair for an arrangement.

● **THE OTTAWA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY** at its Central Canada Exhibition included as one of its displays, a booth given over to African violets. The booth had a backdrop of evergreens, and a large letter V formed with violets occupied the floor which was raised in the back. Violets of white or pale shades filled the large V, deep pinks filled the open part of the letter, and the sides were filled in with blues and orchids. At the base of the V deep reds and purples were placed. It made a very pleasing display.

● **THE NACHUSETT AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY**, Gardner, Mass. sponsored its first annual show on April 25, 1957, in the vestry of the First Congregational Church. Three hundred plants grown by members only were on display. This was a non-competitive show but a popular vote was taken. A plant of Red Sweet Pea owned by Mrs. Nancy Arcangle of Westminister, Mass. won first prize. A plant of Holiday donated by Miss Bernice Smith of Gardner was second choice. Miss Hazel L. Curtis served as show chairman.

● **THE POMONA VALLEY CHAPTER OF THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** had a delightful display in the Horticulture Building at Los Angeles County Fair, Pomona, California, September 13 —29, 1957.

The fifteen by forty foot exhibit was rustic in appearance with a rippling stream running through one side and to the rear, with a three-log bridge over the water, and a rail fence. A lovely stone patio was put in by Concrete Specialties Co. of Azusa, and featured atop the patio, along with a chair and table of contemporary design, was a tree fern stump planted with specimen violets.

A similar tree fern stump was shown in another spot surrounded by more than fifty blooming violets, with pots sunken into the ground, for a mass color effect. The picture was completed by a ground cover of live green grass.

● **THE QUEEN CITY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB** of Cincinnati, Ohio, staged a colorful and artistic display of African violets at the Harvest Home Festival in Cheviot, Ohio, in September 1957. The show was highlighted by a clever waterfall placed in a most interesting setting of tropical plants. The club was presented with a handsome trophy by the Cheviot-Westwood Kiwanis Club for this lovely exhibit of African violets.

● **THE DIXIE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** held its first show in Atlanta, Georgia, on October 2 and 3, 1957. Mrs. L. L. Presley won the sweepstakes award for the most blue ribbons. Her Lavender and Lace was the queen of the show. There were 255 exhibits in the show that were judged plus many plants that were not judged.

Other ribbon winners were Mrs. G. B. Oden, Mrs. Jewell D. Key, Mrs. E. D. Taylor, Mrs. S. R. Simpson, Mrs. Mary Hancock, Mrs. Todd Liddell, and Mrs. William Buchanan.



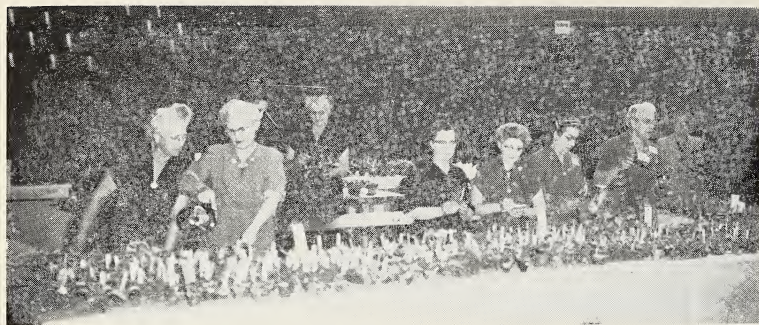
The Queen City African Violet Society Show.

Left to right, Mrs. J. W. Ferguson, Mr. Fred Theilemann, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Penistan of the Mohawk Valley African Violet Society.



Pomona Valley Chapter Show.





Sales table at the
Beatrice African Violet
Society Show, Beatrice,
Nebraska

SHOW CALENDAR

THE MEMPHIS AND SHELBY COUNTY SOCIETY will hold its spring show at the National Guard Armory, Memphis, April 12-13, 1958. Theme, "African Violets — Stairway To The Stars."

● **THE JAMESTOWN AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, JAMESTOWN, NEW YORK**, will hold its fifth annual show on March 29 and 30, 1958, in the Mongolian Room of the Hotel Jamestown. The theme of the show is "Violets for Friendship and Remembrance." Mrs. George Hall is show chairman, Mrs. Vernon Burmeister, co-chairman.

● **THE CEDAR VALLEY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB** of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, will hold its seventh annual show on May 2-3, 1958, at the public library. The theme of the show will be "Color Carnival."

● **THE LOS ANGELES AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** will hold its eighth annual show on May 9-10, 1958, at the Crenshaw Community Center, 3820 Santa Rosalia Drive, Los Angeles, California. Theme of the show will be "Violets Around the World." Theme exhibits will depict some of the countries in which the National Society has members. This will be a competitive show and there will be commercial booths and a plant sale. Show chairman is Mrs. C. H. Harris.

● **THE DAVENPORT AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY**, Chapters I and II, will hold its annual exhibit on March 30, 1958, from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Davenport Municipal Art Gallery, 120 West 5th St., Davenport, Iowa.

● **THE RACINE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** will hold its fourth annual show at the Douglas Park Community House, 2221 Douglas Avenue, Racine, Wisconsin, on June 7-8, 1958. From 2:30 to 9:00 p.m. on the 7th and 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on the 8th.

● **THE BALTIMORE AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB** will hold its annual show at the Eastpoint Shopping Center, Baltimore, on March 28-29, 1958. Entries are invited and visitors are welcome.

● **THE BEATRICE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** of Beatrice, Nebraska, will hold its sixth annual show April 12-13, 1958, at the City Auditorium.

● **THE AFRICAN VIOLET CLUBS** of the Twin Cities and Vicinity will exhibit at their 8th annual show to be held at the L. S. Donaldson Co., Minneapolis, March 13, 1958, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. A special feature this year will be awards given by the Donaldson Company for the best table arrangement, and the best plant in the show. The public is invited. No admission charge.

● **THE MILWAUKEE COUNTY AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** announces its seventh annual show and tea to be held May 17-18, 1958, at the Wauwatosa Recreational Center, 1155 N. 73rd St., Milwaukee 13, Wisconsin. There will be an information booth, an educational exhibit, and plants and supplies for sale. There will be a large display of violets including many of the newest varieties.

● **DES MOINES AFRICAN VIOLET CLUBS I and II** will hold their fourth annual show April 18-19, 1958, at the Des Moines Waterworks Filter Plant. Mrs. Ray Fountain is show chairman and Mrs. Ward Swanson is co-chairman.

● **THE METROPOLITAN ST. LOUIS COUNCIL OF AFRICAN VIOLET CLUBS** will hold its sixth annual African violet show at the Missouri Botanical Gardens, 2315 Tower Grove Ave., St. Louis, Missouri, March 22, 1958, from 2 p.m. until 8 p.m., and Sunday March 23, 1958, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. The theme of the show will be "Violet Rainbow."

- **THE FIRST AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** of Cary, North Carolina, will hold its spring show March 1-2, 1958, at the American Legion Hut, Cary, North Carolina.
- **THE SYRACUSE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** will hold its sixth annual show on April 12-13, 1958, at the Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation, Syracuse, New York. No admission.
- **THE NEW YORK STATE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** will hold its annual spring meeting at Trinkans Manor, Oriskany, New York, May 17, 1958.
- **THE FIRST AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** of Louisville, Ky., Units #1 and #2, will hold its annual show on April 22, 1958, at the Shawnee Presbyterian Church, 44th and Main St. The theme of the show will be "Violets As You Like Them."
- **THE UNION COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** will hold its fifth annual show on April 18-19, 1958, at the Masonic Temple in Westfield, New Jersey. It will be open to the public on Friday, April 18, from 7 to 10 p.m. and on Saturday, April 19, from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m.
- **THE RALEIGH AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY**, Raleigh, N. Carolina, will hold its third annual show April 12-13, 1958, at the Woolworth Company, Cameron Village, Raleigh, North Carolina.
- **THE LONG ISLAND AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** will hold its fourth annual African violet show April 12-13, 1958, in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Building, ~~404 North Main Street~~, Freeport, Long Island. The theme of the show will be "Violet Colorama." Mr. Homer Boltz will serve as show chairman.
- **THE ROSE ONNA AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB** of Chicago will present an African violet show entitled "April Violets" on April, 26, 1958, at the Norwood Park Methodist Church Hall, 7115 W. Hood Ave., Chicago, Illinois. The exhibition hall will be open to the public from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. Admission free.
- **THE FIRST AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** of Lynchburg will hold its annual (eighth) African violet show in the Installment Loan Office of the First National Trust & Savings Bank, 816 Church Street, Lynchburg, Virginia, on May 3-4, 1958.
- **THE NORTH SHORE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY**, of Highland Park, Illinois, will hold its fourth show on May 4, 1958, from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Elks Hall, 740 Laurel Avenue, Highland Park, Illinois.
- The **GENERAL PUTNAM AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF NORWALK, CONN.**, will hold their annual show on May 1, 1958. Theme will be "Saintpaulias Around the U. S. A."
- The **METROPOLITAN AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB OF WASHINGTON, D. C.**, will hold its annual show at the U. S. Botanic Garden, 1st & Canal Sts., S.W., Washington, April 19 and 20, 1958. There will be no admission charge and we hope those who might be touring through or vacationing near will stop and see our show. Mrs. Thomas B. McKneely will be show chairman.

SCOTSWARD VIOLET FARM

MRS. C. B. WARD

FRONTIER 7-1132

HANOVER ROAD

FLORHAM PARK, N. J.

— OFFERS —

A 1958 supplementary list of 50 new varieties of freshly cut leaves. A 1957 master list of over 400 is also available. Kindly state which you wish.

"Scotsward" has for sale the largest selection of blooming plants in the metropolitan area. Only 25 miles from New York City.

BUT — we ship only freshly cut leaves.

Visitors always welcome. Open every day including Sundays and holidays.

REGISTRATION REPORT . . .

Constance Hansen, Box 302, Lafayette, California

PART I

The following applications for registration have been received during the period from September 1, 1957, to December 1, 1957:

PLANT AND REGISTRANT

SNOW PEAK (935) W27sS, 9/7/57, Mrs. Vernon J. Pease, 1563 Lewis Dr., Lakewood 7, Ohio.
NIAGARA DAWN (936) P2dS, NIAGARA SYMPHONY (937) O5sS, 9/7/57, Mrs. C. F. Richard, 95 Meadowbrook Rd., Williamsville, N. Y.
BUD'S KIMBERLY (938) BC59dS, BUD'S PINK VALENTINE (939) P4dS, 9/12/57, Tay-Bow African Violets, Rt. 4, Caro, Mich.
LADY "K" (940) W46dS, 9/12/57, Otto Heeck, 204 N. Fairview, Lansing, Mich.
WELCOME STRANGER (941) P5fsS, 9/12/57, Mrs. H. E. Pratt, 29 S. Allegheny Ave., Jamestown, N. Y.
DOUBLE PINK RIPPLES (942) P39fdS, 10/1/57, Marjorie E. Rose, Cobleskill, N. Y.
COLUMBIA QUEEN (943) B4sL, 10/15/57, Mrs. Earl Shangie, Rt. 1, Box 262, St. Helena, Ore.
CRYSTAL SPOON (944) B89sS, 11/7/57, Mrs. Frank Huebscher, 3920 W. 16th St., Panama City, Florida.
PERKY PINK (945) P8dS, 11/7/57, John H. Rymer, 17043 So. Ardmore, Bellflower, Calif.
RENEE (946) B4dS, TIANA (947) O4dS, TORCHY (948) RP2sS, VANITY FAIR (949) P2sS, 11/16/57, Richter's Greenhouses, 607 Hoffman St., Hammond, Ind.
HOLLY PICOTEE (950) B3sL, TRESSIE (951) B4sL, 11/17/57, Pauline Kuntz, Rt. 4, Winterset, Iowa.
SPRING SONG (952) WC9sS, SWISS PANSY (953) BC9sS, 11/18/57, Canner's Violet House, Herkimer, N. Y.
GREENFIELD'S DOUBLE BEAUTY (954) B5dL, 11/20/57, Mrs. Sam Greenfield, 1084 Jefferson St., Galesburg, Ill.
COON VALLEY (955) B39dL, HOOSIER PINK (956) P8dL, PINK GARDEN (957) P8sS, 11/25/57, Wilson Bros., Roachdale, Ind.
JOHANNA (970) W035dS, 11/30/57, M. W. Maybach, Sr., 241 Union St., Hamburg, N. Y.
P.T. BEAUTIFUL CLOUD (964) P28dS, P.T. BURMA RUBY (965) R38sS, P.T. MIRAMAR (966) O25dS, P.T. PACIFICA (967) B26dS, P.T. PIERROT (968) BW45sM, P.T. WHIMSY (969) PR8sS, 11/30/57, Edena Gardens, 461 Bridge Rd., Walnut Creek, Calif.
COLORADO PAINT BRUSH (938) R38dS, 11/29/57, Mrs. F. G. Spitz, 2311 Laporte Ave., Rt. 3, Box 152, Fort Collins, Colorado.
BELTSVILLE BEAUTY (959) PC38sS, COLOR MAGIC (960) PV49sS, MY MARYLAND (961) B29dL, SNOW FINCH (962) WC49sS, SONJA (963) PC89sS, 11/29/57, Behnke Nurseries, 11300 Washington-Baltimore Blvd., Beltsville, Maryland.
WILSON'S LOVELY LADY (971) P8dS, 11/30/57, Wilson Bros., Roachdale, Indiana.
BEAMING (972) P59fdS, SO SWEET (973) PW59fdS, 12/11/57, Select Violet House 2023 Belmont, Youngstown, Ohio.

PART II

The following NAME RESERVATIONS have been received during this period:

Dells of Wisconsin, Miss Wisconsin, Blue Bubbles, Wisconsin Fleecy Cloud, Lovely (renewal), Donna Lynn, Double Dip, Gay Spray, Lingo, Love Knot, Mark Robert, Pink Spray, Raspberry Pink, Vagabond, Columbia Heritage, Columbia Argosy, Columbia Voyager, Columbia Conquest, Roseberry Pink, Rex, Spic, Span, Star Blue, Star Pink, Star Purple, Star White, Tillie, P.T. Golden Gate, Little Jewel, Blue Flag, J.V. Gilkey, M.D., Pet-O-Sega, Tami, Orphan Annie, Apple Valley, Iva Mae, Double Snow Frill, Star Frill, Fantasy Queen, Double Fantasy Queen, Prairie Pink, Double Green Beads, Goody-Goody, Breathless.

Cascade Prelude (instead of Cascade, as listed in December '57)

and

DOROTHY YOUNG

2937 Rutland

DES MOINES 11, IOWA

This is to announce to our clientele that we are again ready to ship African violets. We now have as many nice things as before our disastrous fire of a few months ago, and our descriptive catalog of over 550 of these varieties will be sent to you on your request.

(Mail order only)

EXOTICA

PICTORIAL CYCLOPEDIA OF INDOOR PLANTS

by Alfred Byrd Graf

This is a profusely illustrated and exhaustive work, covering very completely, cultivated tender flora.

Such a work could only be produced under certain circumstances, and that these actually occurred is an event to be celebrated by the horticultural fraternity and marked in history.

The great house of Roehrs, a mammoth establishment which a lifetime ago already had an internationally famous collection of exotic rarities, is fortunate enough to have as its collector, and horticulturist, a man dedicated to completeness and accuracy in horticulture and botany. His untiring energy, both in the tropical jungles and botanical gardens, and in the devious byways of taxonomy and, at the same time, as vice president and general manager of Julius Roehrs Company producing in 130 greenhouses a large assortment of indoor plants, and therefore also familiar with the problems of growing, give this book a unique standing.

For a sophisticated amateur collector to receive a new plant, and actually find a fine photograph and the correct binomial as well as concise complete information, is certainly an experience only possible with such a work.

In addition to which Mr. Graf has covered every tropical byway and has a fine sense of beauty, and with no pretense to being an art work the volume is rich in pictorial interest and for this alone is an acquisition to the library. It has been predicted that this work will become a rare collector's item, like some Horticultural classics of the past. We hope rather it may become a popular member of the gardener's bookshelf and perhaps even spark a revival of popularity of collecting exotics, thereby bringing much pleasure to many plant-lovers.

EXOTICA is primarily a cyclopedia of illustrations. The entire realm of indoor plants is included, on 644 pages with over 4000 illustrations, arranged by families, we find represented every house plant we can think of, from the Acanthaceae such as Aphelandra and Fittonia, through Araceae (some 600 varieties), Begoniaceae, Bromeliads, Cacti, Ferns, Orchids, to Zingiberaceae. The Gesneriads are well represented with about 180 illustrations showing practically all cultivated types including Episcias, Kohlerias, Sinningias, etc. The Saintpaulia section features 10 cultivated African violet species, while in hybrids 40 representative types are shown.

Additional features of this book are brief descriptions for each plant, their family and origin, and an extensive key to care, some 3000 common names, suggestions for the use of plants

in the home and in arrangements, methods of propagation, charts explaining botanical terms, and a section on Plant Geography around the world. This last feature reads like a story book, giving first a listing of genera of indoor plants known to come from each region, thereby giving flower show planners a useful tool if called on say to assemble an exhibit of West Indian plants, and following this are candid illustrations and captions typical of the country. An attractive, durable, colorful cover in buckram makes EXOTICA a proud addition to any library, or as a reference book on table or desk. Privately published by Roehrs Company Book Department, Rutherford, N. J. (\$17.50 plus 50¢ if mailed).

end

Announcing . . . SWEET CLOVER

Our new seedling to be released April 1st. Huge double pink the color of field clover, heart shaped foliage, grows beautifully.

Newest varieties . . . here's a sample: Silver Flute, Invader, Caravan, Coachman, Chartreuse Lace, Pink Waverly, My Sin.

Van Hoesen Rd.

Clay, N. Y.

CHAMPION'S

AFRICAN VIOLETS

3½ miles west of Cicero, just off Rt. 31.

Sorry, no shipping. Visitors welcome.

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL FLOWER TREES

EVER MADE
for your cherished

AFRICAN
VIOLETS

or other flowers

● All Shining
SPUN
ALUMINUM

● Hold up to 18
four-inch
flower pots—
yet require only
20-inch diameter
floor space

36-inch height \$22⁵⁰
42-inch height 24⁰⁰
48-inch height 25⁵⁰

Shipped Assembled
Express Prepaid

EACH TRAY ROTATES
FREELY about center
for even sunning of
plants . . . Trays are
waterproof and hold
up to ½ inch of water . . . Plants can be
watered the ideal way
— from the bottom —
without individual watering.

Ceramo African Violet
FLOWER POTS
10 3-inch pots . . . \$1.80
8 4-inch pots . . . 2.00
6 5-inch pots . . . 2.20

Sent postpaid. Add 25¢ set

postage west of Rockies.

These famous Squatty Pots, of

dark red clay, with their ex-

cellent porosity, are used and

recommended by Florists.

Specially treated edges help

prevent sloughing off of leaves.

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African violets, begonias, ferns, philodendrons, foliage plants, novelties, geraniums, supplies. Sodium selenate .50¢; VC-13, \$2.95 prepaid. (Sterile soil 10¢ per lb. and specimen plants at greenhouse.) Open every day. Shipping resumed in early spring. Located 1 mi. S.W. McGrawsville. Spring list.

AFRICAN VIOLETS

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Free catalog listing hundreds of new and older varieties, also rare bulbs.

CECIL HOUDYSHEL

DEPT. V

LA VERNE, CALIFORNIA

The June Magazine and Members' Handbook will be mailed out the last of June.

AFRICAN VIOLET SUPPLIES

Plastic Pots —

2¼" Round or Square

25, \$1.25; 50, \$2.25; 100, \$4.00

3" Round or Square

25, \$1.50; 50, \$2.75; 100, \$5.25

4" Round or Square

25, \$3.00; 50, \$5.50; 100, \$10.00

3" Round Squatties

25, \$1.50; 50, \$2.75; 100, \$5.25

3½" Round Squatties

25, \$1.75; 50, \$3.25; 100, \$6.00

4" Round Squatties

25, \$3.00; 50, \$5.50; 100, \$10.00

Round and squatty pots come in utility color only. Marbelized — usually blends of green or gray. Square pots — in yellow, white, red, green.

Jiffy Pots — 2¼" —

25, \$1.00; 50, \$1.75; 100, \$2.50

Plant Marvel —

8 oz. can \$1.00. Trial Pkg. 45¢

I. Bomb — for mealy bugs, aphids, white flies, thrips, etc. Won't burn bloom or foliage. \$1.59 plus 25¢ postage.

Gibberellin — gives plants spectacular new life and vigor, practically overnight with wonder working trace elements in foliar feeding formula 3 F. Free Fog Sprayer with sufficient to make 5 gal. \$2.50

Plastic Markers — white; 100, \$1.25

Plastic Markers — colored; pink, orchid, light blue, yellow, 100, \$2.50

Minimum order \$3.00 please.

MRS. N. B. WILSON

4184 Bankhead Hiway, Rt. 3 Austell, Ga.

"Please say you saw it in the A.V.M."

HOUSE PLANT WATER

Rutgers (N. J.) Garden Reporter
Reprinted with permission

Running out of luck with your house plants? Maybe they need a change of water.

One of our scientists who likes to try his hand at indoor gardening offers this hunch, based on his own experience at home and not at all on formal research.

Dr. Spencer H. Davis, a plant disease specialist, and Mrs. Davis have had a discouraging time with house plants. African violets that were beautiful plants petered out after a few months in the Davis home.

Even a plant like coleus, which usually roots within a week, failed to root, and the base of the cutting would turn black and rot. It was the same disheartening story with other plants.

GREEN COPPER STAIN

The Davises own a home just outside of New Brunswick, New Jersey, and have their own well. Their well water dissolves the copper in their pipes enough to stain the bathroom fixtures.

Playing a hunch, the Davises have switched to "city water" for plant irrigation purposes, getting it from a friend in New Brunswick. Since then, says Dr. Davis, all of their plants have been growing beautifully, rooting quickly and blooming nicely.

This fact may be of interest to the New Brunswick water commission and perhaps holds out hope for you if you have been having trouble with your house plants.

Dr. Davis offers a friendly suggestion that you catch rain water or get water from another source for your plants if your porcelain fixtures show a green stain indicating copper in your water supply. end

THE SOCIETY PIN

E. Pearl Turner, 828 Kenmore Blvd., Akron, Ohio

The official African Violet Society of America pin or lapel button is about five-eighths of an inch across. It has a blue enamel African violet with a yellow center set in a circle of gold or antique sterling silver, with the letters A.V.S.A. on the circle. The pin has a safety catch. Only National Members are eligible to have this pin.

Tax and mailing are included in the following prices:

Silver Pin or Lapel Button\$ 3.50
Silver Pin or Lapel Button with

Gavel for Past Presidents 5.00

14-K Gold Pin or Lapel Button 12.50

14-K Gold Pin or Lapel Button with

Gavel for Past Presidents 15.50

Please send order and check to me along with the name and address of the National Member.

MEMORABLE MISTAKES

by the Editor

One of the joys of collecting and growing African violets is in being able to share with one's neighbors and friends a new or unusual variety.

Back in the early days when each new plant that was different was a treasure more valuable than gold, I became the proud possessor of what I thought was a red African violet. We now know it as Orchid Beauty, and that it is a so-called red and probably should honestly be called wine. But, at this time, it was a something!

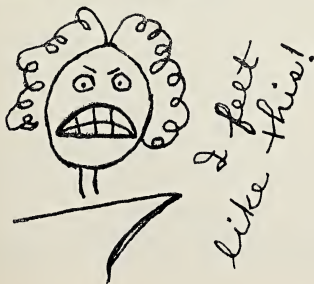
I called all my friends to come out and see my wondrous red violet, and, as each guest departed, it was my great pleasure to give each one a leaf.

Now it might be said that none of us were very expert at growing plants from leaves, and at this stage of the game it was still a thing of mystery and hazard. In no time at all I had only a well plucked stalk with a little fringe of leaves at the top for my precious new red Saint-



Paula. I was really worried, and for good cause. I had pulled the leaves off too fast and within a few days my plant caved in at the middle and the stalk fell over.

This was certainly a memorable mistake as it took me almost a year to replace my plant. Winter came on and I couldn't — order a leaf any place. I was quite unhappy.



Meanwhile several of my friends had their leaves to root, and we talked long hours on their progress. It was a very exciting time when we actually grew something we could not buy at any price.

This mistake taught me not to be over anxious, and also that when I bought anything to always remember my friends and to buy them one too.

Every time I found anything new I always tried to buy one for Mary Parker, and if I was given something I always said, "Now I have a friend, Mary Parker . . ." Mary always remembered me too and between the two of us we really built us a collection! So it goes — but I never forgot my little red plant and was ever after cautious about pulling leaves too fast.

BRINGING ON TROUBLE

Over watering and over fertilizing have often times given me trouble. Naturally I want to give my plants every advantage. So, instead of giving them a moderate amount of fertilizer I have worked on the assumption that if a little bit of plant food would work wonders, a lot of it would really give them a "shot in the arm" that would make them astonishing marvels of beauty. I, therefore, have persisted in putting it on with a heavy hand that soon sent them to their reward.

I have trouble with over-watering now, even at special times of the year, and with special plants. Take my best and most profusely blooming African violet. Let some expert praise it. Immediately I focus my attention on it. I give it an extra pat every day. I want to be sure it has all the water it needs. So, I give it water! Shortly that beautiful plant has had it. Its lower leaves start to flop and the leaves look dull and feel limp. It's about dead because I couldn't leave it alone.

"African violets are responsive plants," I often say. Not only will they do well for you, but they will also die for you if you do not leave them alone and not try to improve on an already successful method of culture you have evolved.

If you are having success, leave it that way.

SELENATE FOR SAFETY

Sodium Selenate is a fine thing. I am a firm believer in its use. Yet I get over anxious almost every year and use it too often or too strong. I don't want some varmint to give my violets the works while I'm not prepared. So I like to selenate at certain intervals. This must all be done at one time or I end up giving it several times to all of my best plants, thereby signing

their death warrants in a hurry. Selenation protects from cyclamen mite and thrip. Both of these troubles I have had many times. There is a proper time and way, but I have taken chances at times that have put an end to my troubles as well as to my plants.

It is certainly a mistake not to use it if you ever have the faintest possibility of either thrip or cyclamen mite; and it is a mistake to use it unless you know what you are doing.

I now selenate this way:

Leave off fertilizing about a month previous so the plants will not be pushing too hard.

Water the day before to be sure the soil is damp.

Use according to directions — no more than called for.

Do not spill on foliage.

Wait about two weeks after selenating before giving the plants plant food or fertilizer of any kind.

VACATIONS AND WATERING

I can't remember whether I have told about this or not, but I took up wick-watering in self defense. I had so much trouble.

You see, we went to New England each year to visit Bob's mother — I think, I have told you I married a Yankee — and, of course, I couldn't leave my plants all alone or board them out. So Eddy, one of my very favorite cousins, would come over and stay at the house and take care of Browntail Wright (the dog) and look after the flowers.

Well, the first summer I had plants — in such great numbers I could not cart all of them out to Mary Parker's to stay (Mary is assistant editor of the African Violet Magazine), so cousin Eddy took care of them. I had only thirty at this stage of the game, but the dear boy killed them all. I never figured out what happened for over a year. 'Course he over-watered them, but I didn't know what I know now about these delightful little house plants.

To make a long, sad story short, I was fresh out of Saintpaulias within a week of my return. They just up and died.

Came the next summer and we began to make preparations for our annual visit to New England to see Bob's mother. I wrote it all out for Eddy. I showed him. I took the watering pot and said **no** — do not use it — only a teaspoonful to the pot each day. Eddy agreed, and said that he understood.

This summer I had three hundred plants when I left Knoxville. After a two weeks' stay with Bob's folks we returned to our home and the deadeast, sorriest mess of African violets you ever saw.

Of course I didn't want to make my dear cousin feel that we were unappreciative of his

efforts, BUT my plants were all dead. I talked to him to see what happened. I knew that one little teaspoonful wouldn't do this. He said, "Well he got worried about them because some of them seemed to be dry and didn't feel so crisp, so he decided maybe I might be wrong about the water and he just filled all the jardinieres to the top and soaked them good." And, he continued, "You can see that all the pots are good and full of water."

They sure were! I took a headache over my plants that never left me for two months.

So, at this point, I began to consider the merits of what was called the wick-watering method with African violets. Come next summer I left them all in wick-fed pots and lost nary a one. The method is almost fool proof for a little while. You have to let them dry out every now and then, but two weeks will not kill them.

Every plant I own is in a wick-fed pot — with the exception of those I keep in bubble bowls. Wick watering is right for me. Some of my plants are eight years old now, and they are living happily in their wick-fed pots.

AMBITION CAN BE DANGEROUS

Everything happens to me! Not even a dog should have the troubles I have had with my violets through the years.

To begin with, if there is a mistake that can be made, I can do it better than anyone else. I have a fine touch for that sort of thing. Every time I hear of something very special I have to try it out. I have killed hundreds of beautiful plants because I could not restrain myself and follow the method I was so successful with.

One year, after a visit to a good friend — who, incidentally, was growing the most lush Saintpaulias I had seen in many a day, I came home fired with determination to grow them the way she did. I would follow her method. So I repotted all my plants into her favorite soil mixture and began to feed them with the liquid manure concoction she said she used. Did I get my violet plants to grow as big as umbrellas with flowers the size of petunia blossoms? Heck, no!

The ungrateful things began to rot off at the top of the soil and fall in holes. Every spot I had dropped a little of this marvelous manure water on, parted at the seams. I was burned up, and my plants were all burned up!

It was a bad time.

MORAL — Don't change a successful method of growing for one you know nothing about. If you are having success, be satisfied.

NEMATODES

Another bad error I have made was in not getting acquainted with nematodes before they knew about me.

Fore-warned is fore-armed, they say. Once a pot of soil was just a pot of soil. Now I am a suspicious woman. All unsterilized soil is a

possible death trap for some poor little Saint-paulia. So, gone are the joys of potting plants in that good black dirt I dug out at Aunt Lillian's when I visited her on the farm. I belong strictly to the sterilized soil group.

My reason for this is based on sad experience.

Back in the early days I bought everything I saw advertised, and, quite naturally, I had plants from thither and yon. I collected my soil in the same way. All I needed was to see a few trees and what looked like a little woodland and I took out for the tall timber. I brought home all kinds of critters in the soil, and I may have bought a few also, in the pots of soil my African violet collection was housed in.

Before long something was wrong. The leaves of some of my violets were wilted and flopping over the rim of the pot — and they had a sad, dull look. I wondered. In time the trouble was diagnosed. I had nematodes — my violets that is — and they were down in the soil doing me dirt where I couldn't see their carrying-on.

I was soul sick. I began to suspect everything with good cause. Loss followed loss, until I finally learned what to do. It is very simple. Just do not use unsterilized soil. Keep all plants in separate containers, where possible and, if a common container is used, be ever watchful for a plant with foliage that is not as healthy looking and firm as it should be. Trouble may be with you.

IN REVIEW

In looking back over my violet life, I guess the single thing that has caused me more grief than any other was in not being happy with what I was doing when I was growing lovely plants. If you are having success, let well enough alone; and if you can't let well enough alone, do not try out the new idea on every plant you have until you know if the new discovery will be successful under your conditions. Also, be suspicious of all strangers — do not add a new plant to your collection until you have had it long enough to see if it has a disease of some kind — or not. end

ERMA'S AFRICAN VIOLET SHOP

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Largest African violet shop in South Dakota. Old and New varieties.

Send for free list.

FLOWER HAVEN

Violets over 300 varieties. Episcias, Achimenes, Begonias.
Leaves 25¢ up, cuttings 40¢ up, Magic Mix leaf and seed starter.

3¢ stamp for list.

CECIL LACHER

Route 4 Freeport, Illinois

COMPOST BY THE BARREL

If you want to have a compost pile, and yet do not want to bother with erecting retaining walls, etc., why not try a bottomless barrel?

After a six-inch layer of garden and kitchen waste is put in the barrel, add a few shovelful of soil, and continue alternating with waste products and soil. The material will decay rapidly if it is moistened occasionally.

When you are ready to use your compost, just lift off the barrel and move it to a new location to start your next barrel of compost.

For anyone with a small place, this is an ideal and neat way of having the much needed compost pile. end

MRS. ODOM'S NEW BOOK

If you haven't gotten your copy of the NEW BOOK "AFRICAN VIOLET AND THEIR FAMILY," o.d. one today, only \$3.98, from Mrs. W. H. Odom, 411 E. 10th, Marshall, Missouri.

SPECIAL PRE-SHOW OFFER

Until June 1st, the AFRICAN VIOLET VARIETY LIST for 1957, by Carolyn K. Rector, \$1.00 postpaid. All show chairmen, judges and exhibitors should have this for reference.

WHITLOW'S

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San Pedro, Calif.

LUTIE DUNLAP

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"Newest of New
and Choicest of Old Varieties"

FRESH CUT LEAVES

DOUBLE PINK FIRE — Large very fringed deepest pink double, very dark red backed wavy foliage.

BLUSHING BEAUTY — Large white single with heavily fringed pink tinted edge, glossy light green wavy foliage.

PINK DARKIE, PINK SNOWBALL,
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TINY HOUSE OF VIOLETS

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Mabel C. Lambert, Prop.

300 varieties of Old and New African violets. Varieties from Tonkadale's, Dr. Reed's, Bud Brewer's, Granger's. Leaves, rooted clumps, small plants. Ship anywhere. Send 3¢ stamp for list. Have Kimberley, Calico.

WHAT P-40 IS:

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Especially prepared phosphate rock is treated with hot solutions of sodium selenate to form P-40.

Sodium selenate is a form of the metal selenium. Selenate compounds are fairly stable in soils. They have the ability to travel in water solutions to and through all plant tissues, providing, however, that such tissues are not extremely hard. When the sodium selenate has accumulated to sufficient proportions, insects sucking the plant juices are killed.

RICHARDS VIOLET GARDENS

Invites You

to visit us when attending the National Convention in April, just 60 miles from Rochester via the thruway.

Only Choicest of Varieties

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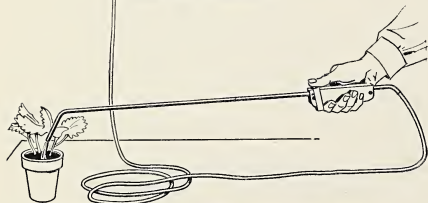
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Tube Craft
WATERING AID



Here's the item needed by every indoor flower grower . . . an all aluminum light weight watering aid. No more lugging heavy and awkward watering cans, spilling water, or breaking leaves. Complete with 8 feet of plastic hose, all aluminum shut off valve, and 18 inch wand only \$6.95 each. Add 25 cents West of Rockies. Shipped Parcel Post Prepaid. Send check or money order TODAY. Made and guaranteed by the manufacturers of the popular FloraCart. Send for literature.



TUBE CRAFT, INC., DEPT. C

1950 W. 114TH STREET
CLEVELAND 2, OHIO

HOW TO USE P-40 In Greenhouse

Measure area of bench to be treated. Figure area into square feet. Weigh out required amount of P-40 into pail. Spread carefully and evenly over entire surface. Sprinkle lightly with water, being careful not to wash pebbles to center of bench. Later, water in normal manner; "scratching in" is a matter of personal preference. Quicker results are obtained when scratched in.

In Potted Plants

Calculations of P-40 Dosage for Pot Plants — Based on Soil Volume in Relation to Bench Treatment.

Size of Pot	Volume in fluid ounces per size of pot	Equiv. to 3 lbs. to 100 sq. ft.		Equiv. to 1½ lbs. to 100 sq. ft.	
		Amt. P-40 in grams	Amt. P-40 in tea-spoonfuls	Amt. P-40 in grams	Amt. P-40 in tea-spoonfuls
2	2½	0.07035
3	8	0.23	1/16	.0165	1/32
4	20	0.56	1/8	.028	1/16
5	36	1.00	1/4	.05	1/8
6	64	1.8	1/3	.09	1/6

"Volume in fluid ounces" is given as a check to see if your pots are same size as those used in these calculations.

CONDITIONS TO AVOID INJURY TO PLANTS NEVER APPLY P-40

- When plants are newly transplanted
- When plants are hard
- When plants are "not growing right"
- When fertilizer level in soil is excessively high
- When "soluble salts" in soil are high (leach soil first to remove)
- When organic matter is very low in soil
- When plants for any reason are wilted
- When temperatures are expected to be high within a few days after application

CONDITIONS WHEN P-40 WORKS BEST

- When plants are growing well
- When temperatures are not excessively high
- When days are not too short (November to late January)
- When soil is rich in manures, peat or other organics
- When not too much, nor too little fertilizer is used

IN CASE OF OVERDOSE P-40 OR DESIRE LESSEN ITS EFFECTS

Leach soil very thoroughly with water, and keep soil and leaves of plants wet constantly.

Reprints of literature available free of charge from Plant Products Corporation, Blue Point, New York:

- "Uptake of Sodium Selenate by Vegetables" Glen Fuller, Battelle Memorial Institute
- "Comments on Use Sodium Selenate" D. S. Kiplinger, Ohio State University
- "Excerpts From Talks on Sodium Selenate" W. E. Blauvelt, Cornell University

end

STILL LEARNING

Lucile Burmeister, Jamestown, New York

I started growing African violets about six years ago. Like all beginners, I knew nothing about growing violets so I started asking questions, and after six years I find myself still asking questions as there is a lot to learn about violets. I have found the answers to a lot of my questions through my experiences in observing and studying all the different types and varieties of violets I have worked with.

Everyone asks about the same questions that I used to ask. How do you water your plants? From the top or the bottom? Which window exposure—north, south, east or west? What kind of soil do you use and what kind of fertilizer? How often do you feed your violets?

I am fortunate enough to have north windows which I think are best, but any window is good providing you don't get direct summer sunlight. I water only when the top soil is dry, and then water from either the top or bottom, finding either way satisfactory.

Plant Marvel and Atlas Fish Emulsion are used alternately for regular feedings. At first I tried every fertilizer that anyone told me was good or that they used, and I even tried cold coffee, but now I use just the Plant Marvel and Fish Emulsion and get good results.

I still ask questions and am always willing to get advice as there is still a lot for me to learn about violets. The answer to all the questions and the best advice I can give anyone who grows African violets is T. L. C., which answers all questions — Tender, Loving Care. end

LOST MEMBERS

Please write P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tennessee if you know the correct address of any of these members.

Bertha Baugher, 601 N. GreVILLE Avenue,
Hawthorne, California.

Mrs. W. Ferguson, 298 Johnson Road, Route 4,
Scotia, New York.

Mrs. Lenora Franklin, 606 S. 34th Street,
South Bend, Indiana.

Mrs. T. A. Gallagher, 2021 Chestnut Avenue,
Glenview, Illinois.

Mrs. F. M. Gramann, Route 1,
Concrete, Washington.

Martin E. Jennings, 847 Meacham Street,
Glendora, California.

Mrs. Dina Johnson, 1722 Bailey Avenue,
McKeesport, Pennsylvania.

Mrs. Ed Lash
Indianola, Iowa.

Mrs. DeEtta Lathrop, 39 Hayes Street,
Norwich, New York.

Mr. James M. Lawrence, 5511 North 24th Street,
Arlington 5, Virginia.

Mr. Jack Nolan, 12 Cedar Street,
Brooklyn 21, New York.

Mrs. Gardner J. Oakes, 1129 Woodland Road,
Pittsburgh 37, Pennsylvania.

Lucile Porter, South of City,
Twin Falls, Idaho.

ABOUT POTTING

Margaret L. Travis, Knoxville, Tenn.

Is repotting necessary? To determine if an African violet needs repotting, gently take it out of the pot. To do this, place fingers under the leaves at soil level, hold pot upside down, and rap gently on a table edge. If there is a mass of tangled roots showing, the plant needs a larger pot; but if the roots are scarcely showing, the present pot is large enough.

How to repot. After the plant has been removed from the pot and it is determined that a larger pot is necessary, be most careful not to disturb the soil mass or break the fine feeding roots. An African violet may be repotted without interrupting its growth and flowering if the root ball is not loosened or broken.

Having previously soaked the new pot in water so that it is ready for use, put some pieces of old pots in the bottom, having a concave piece over the drainage hole, then place a small amount of sphagnum moss on top of this, and a little soil if needed. Hold the root ball of the plant at the proper level in the pot, this about one-fourth inch from the top of the pot rim. Then fill in with fresh soil, tamp it gently, and water with warm water.

Don't over pot. When you are ready to place the root ball in a new pot that has the proper amount of crocking, soil, and moss in the bottom, check to see that there will not be more than one-half to one and one-half inches of space between ball and pot to be filled with soil. If there is, use a smaller pot. Too much soil between the root ball and the bottom of the pot can result in trouble as the soil will hold so much water that the necessary air is excluded. African violets grow faster if they are not over potted.

Partial repotting. If you do not wish to do a complete repotting of your African violet, try freshening their soil. To do this, carefully remove the old top soil down to where the tiny roots appear; then refill the pot with a thoroughly blended sterilized mixture of two-thirds garden soil, one-third well rotted manure, and one teaspoonful of bone meal. Of course, your favorite soil mixture may be used if you have one. end

Mrs. Walter F. Reid, General Delivery,
Sharon, Connecticut.

Mrs. H. C. Rester, Jr., 1265 Vego Drive, Skyland Park,
Mobile, Alabama.

Mrs. Dorothy E. Scott, 3632 Vinton Avenue,
Los Angeles 34, California.

Mrs. Charles R. Simpler, Loraine Hotel,
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Aleta May Stuart, 1033 S. Magnolia Avenue, Apt. 6,
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Mrs. H. L. Van Velzer, 825 2nd Street,
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Mrs. W. Duff Wilson,
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YOUR LIBRARY

Maisie Yakie, Librarian, P. O. Box 674,
Port Arthur, Texas
Peggie Rios, Assistant to the Librarian

I want to take this opportunity to thank each and everyone of you who have written me notes, cards, and letters of sympathy and concern over the destruction of our home in early November, caused by a freak tornado that was completely without warning. We have received hundreds of such communications from people, who before were more or less strangers, but who have become a part of our lives and of our hearts through your wonderful concern for us. It is with a feeling of deep gratitude and humility that we thank you for your letters and for bearing with us during this time.

We personally considered it a particular blessing that the closet in which we had stored the Library materials was left unharmed. Therefore, all of the slide programs, the program packets and the books and various other materials that belong to the Library were in no way damaged. The Library mail, card files, etc., were on a card table in the worst damaged room in our home—my violet room. My husband dug through the mounds of debris that night and somehow found the greater portion of it still resting on top of the smashed table. The next day we sifted hundreds of pounds of assorted trash and debris to hunt for the balance of the mail and other Library materials that might have been there. As it now stands, and I am writing this in mid-January, we believe that all of the card files were retained intact. There is still a lot of mail for me to answer as I write. However, it is my intention that by the time you receive this I shall have acknowledged all mail received up to February 20th as well as all bookings made prior to the tornado for a future date. If you have either not received a reply to any letter you have written me prior to February 20, 1958, or have not received a blue post card acknowledging your booking (whether or not you have written to check on same) please let me know the full particulars as to your booking, date of meeting for which it was intended, etc. We did miss sending some slide programs and in all instances where we have a record that such was missed I have re-booked them and written you on same. Therefore, if you have not heard from me and you did not receive a slide program which you had been promised, please let me know at once so that I may fulfill the Library's obligation to your group. We are back to normal on a full scale program of Library work, so you can expect no further disruption to the service we have attempted to give you, the good Lord willing.

The Library would like to express its thanks and appreciation to the following: Mrs. Nelle M. Berst, Dayton, Ohio, for her very good pamphlet on "Program Planning." It is available from the Library as a \$1.00 program packet and you may obtain the use of it by writing for it by name; The Stanley County African Violet Club, Albe-Marle, N. C., for the fourteen slides sent as a gift to the Library. These slides cover scenes from their first show which was held May 4 and 5, 1957. These will be added to the slide program we are working toward, "Shows Around the Nation." We are again asking for contributions toward this program. We will be happy with one slide or a dozen or more. Won't you share the beauty of your show with others?

I would like to ask that all groups who have used the Cincinnati Convention slides please check your slide files, projectors, etc., to see if the following slides (all or any part) are in your possession: No. 18-Arrangement from Class 28, No. 46-Tonkadale's Display, No. 47-Little Sweetheart (Tonkadale), No. 57-Cream Puff (Fischer), No. 73-Red Glow (Tinari), No. 74-Pink Geneva (Tinari), and No. 75-Neopolitan Night (Tinari). If you find that you have there please, please return them at once!

The spring and early summer months usually bring on a rush of shows, and so it is well to be thinking and working on your plans and plants for the show or shows in your area. I like the plan one group uses. From the Nashville African Violet Club comes the idea: ". . . to create more interest in our monthly meetings, each member shall bring an entry in the National Amateur Show Schedule, beginning with Class I, etc., for the next twenty-four meetings. A beautiful hand painted china plate will be awarded at the end of the year period, to the sweepstakes winner." This idea helps your club in many ways: you have an incentive to grow better and lovelier plants, your members interested in judging are given opportunities to practice their art, etc.

Along the show planning work, comes a suggestion for a program on "Transporting Plants to a Show." There really is an art to packing and taking plants even next door — whatmore the distances that we sometimes have to travel to reach a show. Practice makes perfect, so in conjunction with this program, you might ask that each member bring one plant packed as she would pack it to take to a show. The member conducting the program could discuss the good and bad points of each. If yours is such a large group that this would not be feasible, you might ask that six or seven members bring these demonstrations, instead of the entire group.

In nearly every show these days there is a class for African violet plants displayed in unusual containers. This is a good suggestion for a program. It might be well to have several members work together on this, but the idea in any case is to have a number of plants displayed in really unusual containers (aren't we all a little

Continued next page.

NATURE'S WAY

Marie Dannemiller, 123 25th St., N.W.
Barberton, Ohio

To Mrs. Layson and her Awards Committee, I wish to express my sincere appreciation for the Annual Membership Award presented me at the Convention in Cincinnati. It was less than three years since the first Nature's Way story was published, and to say that I was surprised, is putting it mildly; to my many friends who I am sure had a part in my receiving that award, I can only say, "Thank you from the bottom of my heart."

The past three years have been filled with the warm and pleasant friendships which have developed through the Organic Pigeons; through hundreds of letters received; through the many, many people who have called at my home and through the African violet and garden clubs where I have been invited as guest speaker. I have attended the last three National Conventions, met many of the people to whom I have been writing as well as countless others, and to a stay-at-home like myself, it has been a wonderful experience. I have been surprised with all sorts of gifts and treasure a Gold National Pin given me by one group, add to this my Award and I am, indeed, grateful.

I want to pay tribute to Mr. Baxter with whom I had many discussions, he helped me in many ways; we argued on some points, but, always he encouraged me to continue with organics and when he told me in October, 1954, at the Ohio State Convention in Dayton that he also had gone over to growing his plants organically, I was never happier, for I felt that was a compliment that was "tops." We will all miss him.

In the presentation of my Award, Mrs. Layson used the words "and shared," for which I am very happy, because my object in writing the Nature's Way stories has been to help those who, like myself were never able to grow our beautiful violets. To those who say Nature's Way formulas are no good, there is always an answer WHY; that WHY has been found for many, it can be found for you too. Again, thank you, everyone. end

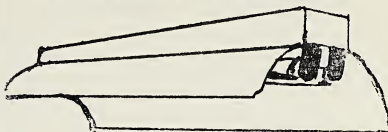
Continued from preceding page.

tired of the cup and saucer routine?). Just for fun the other day I walked through a large dime store and I kept my eyes open for some fun-and-unusual containers suitable for displaying my African violet plants and I was surprised at the number I saw and at the low price of most of them.

I am looking forward with great anticipation and pleasure to meeting many of you in Rochester — some for the first time and some will be renewing acquaintances of earlier years.

end

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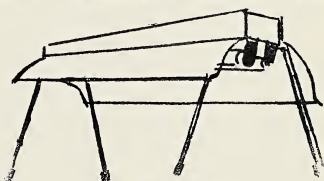
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REPORT OF THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The annual Business Meeting of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., convened in the Pavillion Caprice room of the Netherland-Hilton Hotel, Cincinnati, Ohio, on Friday morning, April 5, 1957, at 9:00 O'clock A.M., with President Mr. William B. Carter presiding.

The minutes of the last annual Business Meeting were read by the Secretary, Mrs. Gilbert D. Wolf. Mrs. Claude E. Greeley requested that the minutes be corrected to show that Mrs. Ferne Keller was the Chairman of the Nominating Committee and Mrs. Claude E. Greeley Co-Chairman. There were no other corrections, or, objections and the minutes were approved as corrected.

The report of the Treasurer was given by Mrs. Arthur Radtke. There were no objections, or corrections and the President declared the report approved.

The President called for unfinished business.

There was none and the meeting moved on to consideration of revision of the By-laws.

President Carter referred to the fact that the proposed amendments had been published in the December magazine and presented the first amendment as follows:

ARTICLE III, Section 2, as amended would read: There shall be six (6) classes of membership in the Society known as Individual, Commercial, Research, Sustaining, Life and Honorary. The amount of dues of each membership class shall be determined by the Board of Directors. All dues are payable in advance, and annual dues shall cover a twelve (12) month period of membership. Mrs. Theodore Rosenak, Thiensville, Wisconsin, moved that the amendment be adopted as read. Mrs. Pat Crowe, Chattanooga, Tenn., seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion was put to a vote and carried.

President Carter read proposed amendment to ARTICLE III, Section 3, striking out the entire section (as it is now, Individual members pay \$3.00 per year, a year may be any twelve month period, or, \$8.50 for three years, payable in advance). Discussion followed. President Carter further stated that an amendment could be added to the amendment to provide that the dues cannot be increased more than one-third until another meeting of the General assembly. Mrs. Czarina Hall, Schwenkville, Pennsylvania, moved that the original motion be amended to read that the dues will not be increased more than one-third during the current year until the next meeting. Seconded by Mrs. Florence Woodruff, Windsor, Ontario, Canada. President Carter put the question and the amendment to limit the raise of dues to one-third and vote was carried. President Carter then called for the vote on the original amendment and it was carried.

The President explained that the amendment to ARTICLE III, Section 3, will remove from the By-laws a section that is no longer of value and presented the recommendation to strike out the entire section. Mr. Neil C. Miller, Penns Grove, New Jersey, moved, and Mr. Lewis Cook, Gainesville, New York, seconded that the section be stricken from the By-laws. Motion carried.

The President presented ARTICLE III, Section 4, as amended would read: All persons, or firms, who annually sell one thousand or more African violet plants, or leaf cuttings of the same, or who manufacture, or sell fertilizer, disease and insect control materials and equipment, tools, or any other merchandise pertaining to, or applicable to growing materials and equipment, tools, or any other merchandise pertaining to, or applicable to growing African Violets, shall be Commercial Members. Mrs. Jennie Spoutz, Frazer, Michigan, moved to adopt the recommendation. Mrs. Constance Hansen, Lafayette, California, seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The President presented ARTICLE III, Section 5, as amended would read: Research members pay at least \$20.00 for each twelve month period of membership, at least 85% of each Research Membership shall be applied to the Research Fund of the Society. Mrs. Ruth Carey, Knoxville, Tenn., moved to accept the recommendation. Mrs. Sammy Ballard, Montgomery, Ala., seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The President presented ARTICLE III, Section 6, as it is now: Sustaining members pay at least \$10.00 per year, a year may be any twelve month period. Amend by striking out this entire section. Mrs. Pat Crowe, Chattanooga, Tenn., moved that the recommendation be accepted. Mrs. Camie Conant, Cleveland, Ohio, seconded. Motion carried.

The President presented ARTICLE III, Section 7, as amended would read: The payment of LIFE MEMBERSHIP dues shall exempt such members from any further dues. Mrs. Aletha Martin, Omaha, Nebraska, moved that this recommendation be accepted. Mrs. Gertrude Hayes, Pittsburgh, Pa., seconded. Motion carried.

The President presented ARTICLE III, Section 8, as amended would read: Any person may be given an HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP in the Society, by the Awards Committee, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee. Only (1) HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP may be awarded each year. HONORARY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP may be given to members of the Society by the Awards Committee. Mrs. May Sterling moved to accept. Seconded by Mrs. Jennie Spoutz, Frazer, Michigan. Motion carried, unanimously.

The President presented ARTICLE III, Section 9, as amended would read: Each member of the Society in good standing whose dues are paid in full for the current year, shall be entitled to one (1) vote on all matters brought before the Society and each member may vote by proxy.

Any member who acts under a proxy shall vote in accordance to the member's instructions, IF ANY. Mr. Neil C. Miller, Penns Grove, New Jersey, moved, and Mrs. Flora Hilger, Louisville, Ky., seconded, that the recommendation be accepted. Motion carried.

The President presented ARTICLE III, Section 10, as it is now: Any person, who acts under a proxy, shall vote in accordance with the member's instructions. Amend by striking out this entire section. Mrs. Ruth Carey, Knoxville, Tenn., moved that the recommendation be accepted. Mrs. Theodore Rosenak seconded. Motion carried.

The President presented ARTICLE IV, Section 5, amended to read: "NOMINATING COMMITTEE" — This committee shall consist of five (5) members of the Society. Two (2) past Presidents of the Society shall serve as two of the five members and all five shall be appointed by the President, with the approval of the Board of Directors. All five members of the committee shall serve for two years next following their appointment. Mrs. Ruth Carey, Knoxville, Tenn., moved the recommendation be adopted. Seconded by Mrs. Pat Crowe, Chattanooga, Tenn. Motion carried.

The President presented ARTICLE IV, Section 6, amended to read: "STANDING COMMITTEES" — The President, with the approval of the Board of Directors, shall appoint the following committees: — Affiliated Chapter, Awards, Boyce Edens Research Fund, By-laws, Commercial Sales and Exhibits, Library, Nominating, Official Pin, Publications, Registration, Research, Show Preparaton and Judging Schools, such other Standing Committees as may be required in the operation of the Society, and the Chairman of all Standing Committees. Mrs. Jennie Spoutz, Frazer, Michigan, moved to accept the recommendation. Mrs. Helen Hughes, Pittsburgh, Pa., seconded. Motion carried.

The President presented ARTICLE V, Section 3, amended to read: The Recording Secretary shall be responsible for keeping accurate, properly recorded minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors. Executive Committee and, of all Annual, or Special Meetings of the Membership. Mrs. Steffney, Schenectady, New York, moved, and Mrs. Jennie Spoutz, Frazer, Michigan, seconded, the recommendation be adopted. Motion carried.

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The President presented ARTICLE 5, Section 4, amended to read: The Corresponding Secretary shall be responsible for the preparation of such official correspondence of the Society as the Board of Directors, and or the President may authorize. A. M. Leslie of Michigan, moved the recommendation be adopted. Mrs. Robert Slocomb, Rochester, New York, seconded. Motion carried.

The President presented ARTICLE 5, Section 5, amended to read: The Membership Secretary shall be responsible for the collection and maintenance of an accurate record of membership dues of the Society, and shall issue appropriate membership cards as receipts for same. All the forms and processes essential in the collection and record keeping of the membership dues shall be approved by the Board of Directors. Mrs. Helen Wilson, Westport, Conn., moved the recommendation be accepted. Mrs. Mary Stanton of Michigan seconded. Motion carried.

The President presented ARTICLE 5, Section 6, amended to read: The Treasurer shall be responsible for the receipt of all monies of the Society and shall pay out all such monies, by check only, to cover those expenses of the Society that are

included in the annual Operating Budget. It was moved by Mr. Neil C. Miller, Penns Grove, New Jersey, and seconded by a delegate from Kingsport, Tenn., to accept. Motion carried.

The President presented ARTICLE 5, Section 9, amended to read: The Board of Directors shall appoint an EDITOR of PUBLICATIONS of the Society and such Editor may be a person holding other office in the Society. The EDITOR shall be responsible for the preparation and issuance of all publications of the Society that the Board of Directors may authorize to be published. Mrs. Jennie Spoutz, Frazer, Michigan, moved that the recommendation be adopted. Mrs. Florence Woodruff, Windsor, Ontario, Canada, seconded. Motion carried.

The President presented ARTICLE 5, Section 10, amended to read: "THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE", shall nominate members of the Society to fill the positions of President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer and members of the Board of Directors. Nominee for the position of an Officer of the Society shall be selected from present, or, past members of the Board of Direc-



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tors. The committee shall report all nominations to the membership of the Society by mail, or by publication in the African Violet Society Magazine, as provided in Article 6, Section 4, and finally, at the annual Business Meeting, where all elections shall be held. Mrs. Eunice Davies, Cleveland, Ohio, moved and Mrs. Helen Perry, Kenmore, New York, seconded, that the recommendation be adopted. Motion carried.

The President presented ARTICLE V, to be amended by adding a new Section, to be known as SECTION 12, which reads as follows: The Board of Directors may select and appoint by such procedure, may be determined by the Board, an EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, and such other executive personnel necessary, or proper for the management of the Society, and shall fix the salaries of such appointees, and of all other employees and shall have full power of removal of any such appointees, when such removal is for the best interest of the Society. The authority to employ subordinate personnel, together with the power to remove such personnel, may be delegated to the Executive Director. Mr. Neil C. Miller, Penns Grove, New Jersey, moved, and Mrs. Camie Conant, Cleveland, Ohio, seconded, that the recommendation be adopted. Motion carried.

The NOMINATING COMMITTEE was asked for their report and Mrs. Claude E. Greeley, Chairman, read the following:

PresidentMr. William B. Carter,
Tewksbury, Massachusetts
1st Vice PresidentMr. H. G. Harvey,
Atlanta, Georgia
2nd Vice PresidentMrs. James B. Carey,
Knoxville, Tennessee
TreasurerMrs. Arthur Radtke,
Cincinnati, Ohio
Recording SecretaryMrs. Gilbert D. Wolf,
Dayton, Ohio
Corresponding SecretaryMr. Joseph D. Schulz,
Indianapolis, Indiana
Membership SecretaryMrs. Robert Wright,
Knoxville, Tennessee

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr. Albert Buell, Eastford, Connecticut
Mrs. Harold Baker, Saint Paul, Minnesota
Mrs. Raymond Crotty, Huntington, West Virginia
Mrs. Charles Poe, Colorado Springs, Colorado

Mrs. Robert Johnson, Jamestown, New York, moved that the report of the Nominating Committee be accepted. Delegate from Massachusetts seconded. The President asked for nominations from the floor. There were none. Mr. H. G. Harvey, Atlanta, Georgia, moved that the nominations be closed, and that the Secretary be in-

structed to cast a unanimous ballot for the election of all persons nominated. Mrs. Mary Stanton of Michigan seconded. Motion carried. The Secretary cast the ballot and the slate of officers named by the Nominating Committee was declared elected.

There being no further business the annual Business Meeting adjourned at 12:20 o'clock.

Respectfully submitted,
Marge Wolf
(Mrs. Gilbert D. Wolf)
Recording Secretary

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REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS 1957

The annual BOARD OF DIRECTORS meetings of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., was held on Wednesday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock, April 3, 1957, in Parlor "H" of the Netherland-Hilton Hotel, Cincinnati, Ohio, with the President, Mr. William B. Carter presiding. 23 members answered roll call.

Committee reports were asked by the President and Chairman of the following committees reported: Boyce Edens Research Fund, Research, Official Pin, Awards, Registration, Library, Show Preparation and Judging Schools, Affiliated Chapter. Their reports were accepted and filed with the Secretary.

The Treasurer's report was given by Mrs. Arthur Radtke, Treasurer, and filed with the Secretary. Membership Secretary, Mrs. Robert Wright, reported on the membership of the Society and as of April 1, 1957, we had 14,691 members. Her report was submitted and filed with the secretary. Editor, Mrs. Robert Wright, reported that the June issue of the magazine would be entirely a CONVENTION ISSUE. Report filed with the secretary.

Action was taken on the appropriation of \$4,000.00 for Research for the coming year.

Action was taken on the appropriation of \$400.00 for the Library.

Action was taken on the approval of a FLOWER COLOR DETECTOR CHART for publication in the magazine.

Meeting adjourned until 7 o'clock Wednesday evening.

Respectfully submitted,
Marge Wolf
(Mrs. Gilbert D. Wolf)
Recording Secretary

The annual BOARD OF DIRECTORS meeting of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., reconvened at 7:30 P.M., on Wednesday evening, April 3, 1957, in Parlor "H" of the

Netherland-Hilton Hotel, Cincinnati, Ohio, with Mr. William B. Carter, President presiding. 23 members present.

It was recommended to next year's PROGRAM COMMITTEE that they devote one session to the WORKSHOP type of program.

A suggestion box was recommended for the Cincinnati convention asking members for their suggestions as to just what they would like to have in the way of programs and what they would like to know more about. This to be announced at our Thursday night meeting.

Discussion on Affiliated Chapters, proposed changes to the By-laws, Executive Director and dues followed.

Meeting adjourned at 10 o'clock.

Respectfully submitted,
Marge Wolf
(Mrs. Gilbert D. Wolf)
Recording Secretary

The BOARD OF DIRECTORS of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., met at one o'clock Saturday afternoon, April 6, 1957, in Parlor "H" of the Netherland-Hilton Hotel, Cincinnati, Ohio, with the President, Mr. William B. Carter, presiding, 24 members answered roll call.

Action was taken to allow only ACTIVE MEMBERS of Affiliated Chapters the 50¢ deduction on dues, who reside within a 150 mile radius of the locale in which the club functions.

Action was taken to hold the convention in Atlantic City, March 31 thru April 2, 1960, at the Chalfonte-Haddon Hall Hotel.

Action was taken to hold the convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, at the Claypool Hotel, April 13, 14, 15, 1961.

Action was taken on the approval of \$600.00 advance for the Rochester, New York, convention in 1958.

Action was taken on the approval of \$500.00 for Judging Schools.

Action was taken on the approval of \$500.00 for a Judging Schools to be held on the West Coast.

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Action was taken that the Secretary be authorized to submit a report and summary of the minutes of the Board of Directors meetings and Annual Business Meeting held in Cincinnati, Ohio, for the Editor, after tentative approval and that the Editor be authorized to print these in the magazine.

Action was taken on the authorization of the Editor of our magazine to have a qualified person prepare a cumulative "SUBJECT INDEX" for the magazine.

Action was taken on the authorization of the Editor to change and include in the Handbook, the names of all registered plants, a SPECIAL PUBLICATION to be sent free of charge to all commercial growers and to be sold to both members and non-members at a reasonable fee.

Committee appointments were announced by the President and accepted.

Action was taken to abolish the 3 year membership dues as of now.

Action was taken on the new dues rate to be effective as of August 1, 1957.

Action was taken that the President be responsible in giving the Editor instructions as to what to print in the magazine regarding the increase of dues.

Action was taken that the President be responsible for giving the Editor an exact copy of the By-laws for publication in the magazine.

Action was taken on all future awards of ribbons that they be left blank, the card attached to the back of the ribbon will be filled out with the year.

Action was taken on the approval of appropriation of \$170.00 for ribbons, rosettes, cups, President's pin, etc., for the 1958 Rochester convention.

Action was taken on the securing of an Executive Secretary.

Action was taken on the approval of a committee to approve the Secretary's minutes of the Board of Directors' meetings and the annual Business Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Marge Wolf
(Mrs. Gilbert D. Wolf)
Recording Secretary

end

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Club NEWS

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Deadline dates for Club News contributions: For September issue, June 1st; for December, September 1st; for March, December 1st; for June, March 1st.

The **AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF UTAH, CHAPTER #1, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH** installed the following officers for the coming year: president, Marie Jones; vice-president, Lucille Conger; secretary, Twila Naylor; corresponding secretary, Vera Gray; treasurer, Katherine Blank.

The newly elected officers of the **TAHOMA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, TACOMA, WASHINGTON** for 1957-1958 are as follows: president, Mrs. Mabel Leif; vice-president, Mrs. Vesta Mielky; secretary, Miss Helen L. Van Gilder; treasurer, M. s. Mildred Ness.

Davis Hall in Scots Park was the setting for the recent installation of the **SAN JOAQUIN AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, CALIFORNIA**.

Mrs. Harvey Mullen conducted installation rites for president, Mrs. J. A. Bathurst; vice-president, Mrs. Walter Erickson; secretary, Mrs. George Woodruff; treasurer, Mrs. Donald Platt.

Mrs. Bathurst was presented an orchid corsage from the collection of Mrs. J. W. Strickling. Outgoing officers were presented with miniature African violet pictures made by Mrs. L. H. Brown, outgoing president.

Members enjoyed a recent tea and tour to the homes of Mrs. Constance Hansen, Lafayette, California, and Mrs. Edith Dugle of Orinda, California.

Attractive tables decorated with pink cloths and arrangements of gladioli were set for seventy-five members, husbands, and friends of the **JAMESTOWN AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, JAMESTOWN, NEW YORK**, on Wednesday evening August 21, 1957, at School Park, for a chicken barbecue.

The committee in charge of arrangements for the affair included Mrs. James Johnson, Mrs. H. E. Pratt, Mrs. George Hall, Mrs. Paul Seeley, Mrs. Philip Dahlbeck, Mrs. Tom Law, Mrs. Clance Strawberg, and Mrs. Charles Wuertzer who had charge of the tickets.

Mr. Herbert Hern gave the invocation and the president, Mrs. James Johnson, welcomed the guests and gave a brief talk on the club activities. She also announced a violet tour for September 18, when the group will go to Corfu.

The dinner was followed by a talk by H. E. Pratt, introduced by Mrs. Arthur Agnew, program chairman, who showed colored slides of the National Violet Convention held in Cincinnati, the New York State show, and the 1955, 1956 and 1957 Jamestown violet shows.

Out of town guests included Mrs. Oscar Swanson, a former member now residing in Florida, and Mrs. Stanley Abbey.

A large delegation of members from the Jamestown club attended the fourth annual convention and show of the New York State Society held in Buffalo, N. Y. Mrs. Vernon Burmeister was the winner of the New York state tri-color rosette and award for the best plant in the New York state registered origination class.

The **VIKING AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI**, held its election and installation of officers on October 9, 1957, at the home of Mrs. William Nolte.

The following were elected for the year 1958: president, Mrs. J. H. Lincoln; recording secretary, Mrs. L. R. Simpson; corresponding secretary, Mrs. J. G. McCarron; treasurer, Mrs. Robert Thumser.

The program was "Color Slides of Our 1956 and 1957 African Violet Shows," and the slides were shown by the guest speaker, Mrs. F. Tretter.

The **BLUE RIDGE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA**, was organized October 17, 1957, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Warren. The officers elected are as follows: president, Mrs. J. R. Warren; vice-president, Mrs. W. T. Driskill; recording secretary, Mrs. W. B. Harvey; corresponding secretary, J. R. Warren; treasurer, Mrs. J. B. Tate.

The **STATESVILLE AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, STATESVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA**, met on November 7, 1957, with Mrs. Lee Baker at her home 500 Western Avenue.

During the business session the following officers were elected for the coming year: president, Mrs. Marshall Campbell; vice-president, Mrs. D. H. Dennis; secretary and treasurer, Mrs. John V. Johnson; assistant secretary and treasurer, Mrs. Lee Baker; reporter, Mrs. G. E. Harris.

The **WILLOWS AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, WILLOWS, CALIFORNIA**, celebrated its first birthday, September 11, 1957. Speaker for the evening was Mrs. Constance Hansen of Lafayette, who spoke on the Cincinnati African Violet Convention.

Additional guests were Mrs. Mary Say, president, Mrs. Katherine Whitney, vice-president, of the Chico African Violet Society; and Mrs. Pearl Thomas of Walnut Creek, who presented as a door prize one of her seedlings "Pacifica."



1- Newly installed officers of The First African Violet Society of Cary, Wake County, N. C. Left to right, Mrs. Glenn Russell, Mrs. H. J. Waff, Mrs. J. A. Bailey, Mrs. J. S. Hawkins. 2- Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Shirley, Avon Lake, Ohio. Mr. Shirley is president of the West Shore African Violet Society. 3- Left to right, Mrs. Sidney Fox, Mrs. E. J. Rude, Mrs. George Philabaum, Mrs. Mary Bridging of the Ohio Valley African Violet Club, Wheeling, West Virginia.

The October meeting was devoted to a demonstration by Mrs. Evahmay Plummer on the grooming and judging of violets. Colored slides were also shown.

Election of officers was held in November and the following were elected for the coming year: president, Mrs. Evahmay Plummer; vice-president, Mrs. Mildred Wakefield; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Hazel Lachenmeyer. The rest of the meeting was turned over to showing some of the newer varieties of violets. The members also reported on their summer visits to certain violet collections.

In addition to the added information we have gained during the past year about our favorite plant, the African violet, the **BALTIMORE AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND**, is happy that we have been able to help our fellowman by donating to the Franklin High School for sports equipment, making a gift to a program for mentally retarded children, and by preparing six baskets of food to be distributed to less fortunate people at Christmas time.

On November 4, 1957, the Wisconsin Council of African Violet Clubs was entertained by the **RACINE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, RACINE, WISCONSIN**. The business meeting was held at the Racine Elks club at 11:00 a.m. with voting members of five groups present: Milwaukee, Green Bay, Beloit, Kenosha, and Racine. Each group president gave a brief resume of the past year's activities.

Luncheon was served at 1:00 p.m. The guest speaker was Mrs. Lucy Colbert, Society Editor of the Racine Journal Times, and her topic was The Five W's: Who, What, Where, When and Why, and number six could be "Wow". Her talk dealt with what a newspaper wants for society news, and the point of interest was number six, "Wow."

Colored slides were shown of the Cincinnati Convention, Illinois state show, and the Racine and Milwaukee shows. Plants donated by members were auctioned off by Mrs. Roy Christianson and Mrs. Ed. Schultz, proceeds going to the Wisconsin council.

An added interest was arrangements featuring African violets made by the following Racine members: Mrs. Einar Nielsen, Spring; Mrs. Charles Bromley, Thanksgiving; Mrs. Roy Christianson, Silver Cornucopia; Miss Anne Neitzel, Harvest; Mrs. Eva Dawson, Fall; and Mrs. D. E. Buchta, Christmas.

The **RALEIGH AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA**, celebrated its third birthday with a party on October 22, 1957.

Mrs. J. A. Bailey, a member of the First African Violet Society of Cary, North Carolina, installed the following officers: president, Mrs. Russell E. Wood; vice-president, Mrs. O. D. Fleming, Jr.; recording secretary, Mrs. Walter H. Croy; corresponding secretary, Mrs. M. J. Silvers; treasurer, Mrs. Ralph K. Ingram; historian, Mrs. J. Harold Nelson.

Each year members who have a perfect attendance record are awarded ribbons. Five members were thus honored, Mrs. Russell Wood, Mrs. R. T. Stephenson, Mrs. M. J. Silvers, Mrs. J. Harold Nelson and Mrs. O. D. Fleming, Jr.

One of the club projects last year was a named variety of African violet grown for one year. Mrs. Walter Croy won the award with her plant, White Madonna. During the year at monthly meetings each member brought plants of different leaf pattern and bloom. These plants were judged and one best selected. Mrs. Russell Wood won, having four selected as best during the year. She was presented a plant of a new variety.

Mrs. Wood and Mrs. Herbert G. Norfleet were hostesses. A social hour followed.

During the coming year each hostess will have an arrangement of the month. Mrs. Wood's arrangement was carried out as a harvest scene.



1- Pictured are some of the members and the officers of the Pensacola African Violet Society, Pensacola, Florida. 2- Mr. Frederick Theilemann, president of the Mohawk Valley African Violet Society, Mrs. William B. Carter and Mr. Carter. Schenectady Gazette Photo.

The **FIRST AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF LYNCHBURG** held its annual election of officers at the November meeting. The following officers were elected for 1958: president, Mrs. J. L. Jones; vice-president, Mrs. C. L. Orndoff; recording secretary, Mrs. Julia Thornhill; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Percy F. Stanton; treasurer, Mrs. R. H. Porter.

The **OHIO VALLEY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA**, installed the following officers at its October meeting: president, Mrs. Sidney Fox; vice-president, Mrs. E. J. Rude; secretary, Mrs. George A. Pilabaum; treasurer, Mrs. Mary Brieding.

The **PLYMOUTH AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, PLYMOUTH, INDIANA** elected the following officers for the coming year: president, Mrs. John Yokum; vice-president, Mrs. Renee Sheehan; secretary, Mrs. Carl Freed; treasurer, Mrs. Palmer Mart.

On November 14, 1957, the **DOUBLE 10 AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB OF LANSING, MICHIGAN** held its election of officers for the year 1958. They are as follows: president, Mrs. Clara Smith; vice-president, Mrs. Oral Cooper; secretary, Mrs. Leon Pottruff; treasurer, Mrs. James C. Swift.

We have had a good year with a successful show in April and much interest shown at our meetings. For added interest, a particular type of violet is featured at each meeting along with the main topic. It is interesting to see the difference in the plants and to compare notes on growing and grooming. This gives each member an opportunity to show off a pet plant.

The **RAINBOW AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF FORT WAYNE, INDIANA**, celebrated its fifth anniversary November 20, 1957. A dinner was enjoyed by the members of the society. The table held a lovely cake, flanked by beautiful African violet plants. Potted African violet leaves wrapped in cellophane and tied with ribbons were used as favors. Reports on the Indiana state violet show were given by Mrs. Quincy Jones and Mrs. Stanley Sondles.

The **DETROIT AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, DETROIT, MICHIGAN**, elected the following officers, on October 9, 1957, to take office January 1, 1958. President, Mrs. R. B. Reaume; vice-president, Mrs. L. Biel; recording secretary, Mrs. R. Asher; corresponding secretary, Mrs. C. Rose; treasurer, Mrs. A. C. Foster.

On November 1, 1957, the **AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB OF TRENTON, NEW JERSEY**, celebrated its ninth birthday with a birthday party. The club had a birthday cake, of course, and as a special feature, a small fall show was held with specimen classes and arrangement classes. As an added attraction they held a Chinese auction, where members may obtain desired plants which other members spare.

The regular meeting of the **POMONA VALLEY CHAPTER OF THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** was held at La Verne, California, on October 21, 1957. The highlight of the meeting was the installation of officers for the new year.

Mrs. Ellen Caldon, past president of the Inglewood, California Chapter, was the installing officer. As each officer was installed she was instructed about the duties of her office, and presented with a scroll of the constitution and by-laws, and a beautiful corsage.

Following are the officers installed for the coming year: president, Mrs. Myrtle Goodrich; vice-president, Mrs. Wilma Blough; second vice-president, Mrs. R. A. Rathbone; secretary, Mrs. Dorothy Parker; treasurer, Mrs. Joe Fox.

The annual meeting of the **CENTRAL CONNECTICUT SAINTPAULIA CLUB** was held on Tuesday, November 12, 1957, at the Yankee Silversmith in Wallingford, Connecticut. Luncheon was followed by the annual reports and the election of officers for 1958-1959. Mrs. George H. Stetson of Portland presided.

Incoming officers are: president, Mrs. George P. Carter; vice-president, Mrs. Ralph T. Ogden; secretary, Mrs. H. Archer Clark, Jr.; treasurer, Mrs. Raymond T. Fraprie.

The Central Connecticut Saintpaulia Club was organized on November 29, 1949, and meets quarterly. Its primary purpose is to stimulate interest in the study of the culture of the Saintpaulia. The club has a membership of thirty members in and around Hartford, Connecticut.

The **AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF THE EAST BAY, CALIFORNIA**, elected the following officers for the year 1958: president, Mrs. Constance Hansen; vice-president, Mrs. Roletts Frazer; secretary, Mrs. Pearl Thomas; treasurer, Mrs. Hazel Ives, corresponding secretary, Mrs. Judy Carr.

The **BELLFLOWER AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, BELLFLOWER, CALIFORNIA**, installed the following officers at its November 12, 1957 meeting: president, Mr. Clarence Wilson; vice-president, Florence Sneed; secretary, Faye Wills; treasurer, Helen Rymer.

Installing officer was Mrs. Ethel Thalheimer. Following installation, Mrs. Thalheimer presented the out-going president, Mrs. Marguerite Horton, with a pin of the National Society. Mrs. Horton then gave to each of her officers and committee chairmen of the past year a lovely gift, as a token of her appreciation for their fine work.

The society meets in private homes and is largely composed of husbands and wives. Two of the husbands are not only enthusiasts, but have brought out their own new variety of violet. Clarence Wilson brought his "Viola Mae," and John Rymer his "Perky Pink."

Members of the **NORTHERN INDIANA AFRICAN VIOLET CLUBS** and their guests met August 14, 1957, at the Lincoln Park Community House in Mishawaka for their annual co-operative luncheon. Clubs represented from South Bend were the Twin City African Violet Club, The Friendly African Violet Club, The South Bend African Violet Club, the South East Violettes, and the Plymouth African Violet Club of Plymouth, Indiana.

Mrs. Betty Stoebr of Greenwood, Indiana, was guest speaker, and spoke on "Organizing the Indiana State African Violet Society." The newly elected picnic committee for 1958 are: president, Mrs. Ethel Boggs; secretary, Mrs. Karl Fritz.

During the afternoon games were played, plants were judged and awards made, and a plant sale was held.

The **RACINE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, RACINE, WISCONSIN**, celebrated its fifth birthday at the meeting held on October 28, 1957. A large birthday cake in the center of the table was decorated with violets and the message Happy Birthday Racine African Violet Society. Five candles in graduated sizes depicted the growth of the group.

A cornucopia filled with corsages made of violets and tied with purple ribbons was featured at one end of the tea table. The corsages were presented to the charter members by the group's president, Mrs. Einar Nielsen and Mrs. D. E. Buchta, program chairman.

Luncheon was served by Mrs. Roy Christianson, Mrs. Ray Reed, and Miss Anne Neitzel. Names of the members were placed in a hat and drawn by Glenn Barrer and Clarence Peterson, who in turn presented plants and leaves donated by Mrs. Frank Luedtke and Mrs. James Lillie.

Miss Ruby Bice, president of the Kenosha, Wisconsin, club, gave an interesting talk on how she started raising African violets, and about her many friends and experiences.

Past presidents of the Racine group are Phil Libby, Glenn Barrer, and Mrs. Buchta. The group has a membership of sixty-five and are 100% National.

Each year the group distributes African violet plants to the homes for the aged, which is a project enjoyed both by the receivers and donors. The group also contributes to the Boyce Edens Research Fund.

Mr. William Carter, president of the African Violet Society of America, was guest speaker of the **MOHAWK VALLEY SOCIETY** on Monday, October 28, 1957. The meeting was held at Scotia, N. Y., at the hall of the St. Andrews Episcopal Church.

The Mohawk Valley African Violet Society invited the following societies to be their guests that evening, to meet our National president. The Tri-County African Violet Society, Glens Falls, N. Y.; The Uncle Sam African Violet Society, Troy, N. Y.; The Capital District African Violet Society, Albany, N. Y.; The African Violet Society of Albany, Albany, N. Y.; The Good Will African Violet Society, Amsterdam, N. Y.; The Schoharie Valley African Violet Society, Cobelskill, N. Y.

About eighteen violets were distributed as door prizes, each guest and member being given a ticket.

Mr. Carter gave a talk on "The National Society", After which he showed Kodachrome slides of a trip he and Mrs. Carter had taken to Hawaii.

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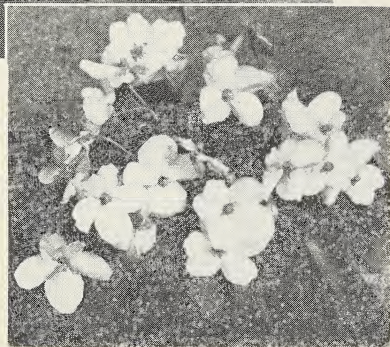
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"Pirate Gold" — a novelty blue with frilled chartreuse edge and white spot under pollen\$1.50

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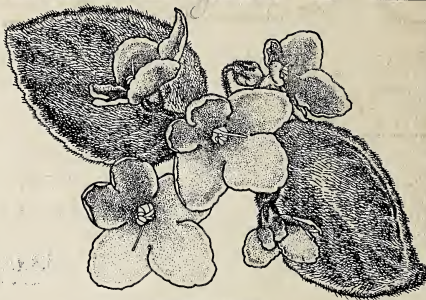
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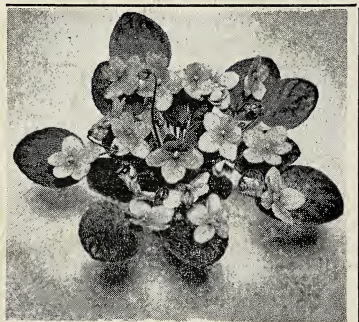
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MAGAZINE

JUNE 1958

VOLUME 11 NUMBER 4





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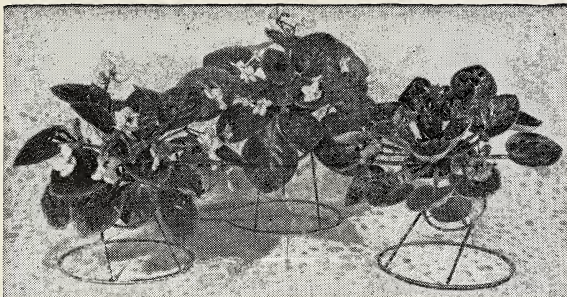
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This is filled with the fine top soil is seeds, place on the lid of the box and slight bottom heat.

The seeds generally take two to three weeks before germinating. When I see the first true leaves, I give them a very weak feed of plant food through the glass tube. As the tube is about one inch above the soil, the seedlings don't get splashed with the food and damp off.

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- 1955 — Rev. Harold L. Thompson, Birmingham, Michigan.
- 1956 — Mrs. L. A. Beck, St. Joseph, Missouri.
- 1957 — Mrs. J. R. Bush, Muncie, Indiana.
- 1958 — Mrs. Edward Casey, Rochester, New York

African Violet Magazine



A Quarterly Publication

C O N T E N T S

Vol. 11 June 1958 No. 4

Front Cover: Blossoms of Dassel from the collection of Lucille Kile.

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FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Friends:

The September issue of the magazine will carry the balance of the Rochester Convention news. Lois Minehan's Question Box and Vera Covert's column Chaff from Cricken Farm are both absent in this magazine. On behalf of the Society I want to thank them both for the many hours they have so unselfishly given, and I know that all of our members are looking forward to the return of their columns very soon.

Sara Cubbage's term as secretary of the Buyer's Guide Committee has expired. Many thanks, Sara, for so generously helping the Guide with its work. I am deeply grateful to you.

With very best wishes.

Anna Wright

KROGMAN'S VIOLETRY

NEWEST VARIETIES — (Early Fall Shipping)

Fresh-cut Leaves @ 50¢ Single Established Plants @ 75¢

Rooted-cuttings (with plantlets) @ 75¢

ARROWHEAD—Frlly edged blue with white center and veining. Arrow shaped, bronzy red foliage.
AUTUMN MOON—Light blue dbl. chartreuse or Geneva edge. Dark, scalloped, quilted foliage with red back.

BEAMING—Outstanding, large, delicate dbl. pink.
BLACK CHERRY—Popular, very dark wine.
BLUE LARGO—Medium blue dbl. White edge. Nice, dark scalloped girl leaf.

BOLD DESIGN—Lovely medium blue, ruffled semi-dbl.

CALIPH—Deep velvety red dbl. Dark tailored foliage.

CAMEO—Wavy, light pink dbl.

"CARNATION FRILLS"—Blue, deep, full dbl.

"CARNATION FRILLS"—Purple, deep, full dbl.

CAROLEE—Intense dbl. pink, girl leaf.

CHAPEL SUNSET—Dbl. burgundy with white edge. Yellow center. Dark, scalloped, quilted foliage with red back.

CHARMIN—Deep pink, white eye.

CHARTREUSE LACE—Fringed white. Chartreuse edge.

CHRISTMAS ROSE—Dbl. white. Dark girl leaf.

CORRINE—Dbl. white. Tailored.

DAYTIDE—Pink & white dbl. Dark leaf.

DELT WING—Medium blue Geneva. Waxy wavy foliage.

DBL. PANSY DREAM—Dbl. white & blue.

EASTER TIDE—Dbl. red & white.

FASCINATION—Deep, dbl. pink, ruffled.

FAT GAL—Full, dbl. pink. Bronze girl leaf.

FINE LINE—Large dbl. lavender. Nice white edge.

FLEET DREAM—Large, deep, dbl. pink.

FRINGED APPLE BLOSSOM—Huge, delicate, fringed dbl. pink.

FRINGED POM-POM—Fluffy white, edged lavender.

GAY SPRAY—Multi-color, blue, lavender, white & pink with white eye.

GOLDEN HARVEST—Lilac dbl. pom, white & chartreuse edge & back. Bronze leaf.

GRACEFUL—Lavender pink, most beautiful, Holly leaf.

GREAT DAY—Vivid rose-pink dbl. Tailored foliage.

HER GRACE—Large rose-pink dbl. Regal girl foliage.

HONEY—Fringed dbl. pink & white.

INVADER—Luscious dbl. pink.

IROQUOIS—Dark pink dbl. Bronze foliage with red back.

KIMBERLY—(Bud's)

KING MAKER—Deep dbl. pink. Dark green leaf.

"LITTLE GIANT" BLUE—Semi-miniature. Large blooms.

"LITTLE GIANT" PINK—Semi-miniature. Large blooms.

"LITTLE GIANT" PURPLE—Semi-miniature. Large blooms.

LINGO—Frlled lavender dbl. Dark wavy foliage.

LOVELY—White star fused with pink.

MATCH MATE—Light blue dbl. pom. White & chartreuse edge & back. Bronze leaf.

MENDOTA—Wavy, dbl. Shaded lavender.

MIDNIGHT QUEEN—Deepest purple-blue, very fringed.

MY SIN—Bright pink. Dbl. star.

NORTHERN BREEZE—Largest violet.

OLIVIA—Fringed, deep, dbl. pink.

PATRICIA—Vivid, dbl. pink. Also fringed.

PINK CONSTELLATION—Lavender-pink, flecked white.

PINK PANDORA—Serrated leaf. Cupped bloom.

PINK SPRAY—Multi-color. Pink edge & white center.

PIRATE GOLD—Purple, fringed chartreuse edge.

PORTRAIT—Fringed white. Large deep, blue center.

PRIMITIF—Fuchsia pink star.

RASPBERRY PINK—Clearest red-pink.

RASPBERRY RED—Pinkish-red dbl.

REDDERNESS—Reddest violet. Dbl.

RENEE—Fluffy blue dbl. Open girl foliage.

SALMON SPLENDOR—Salmon-pink dbl.

SEA FOAM—Frlled, dbl. pure white.

SEA SPRAY—Fringed dbl. pale blue.

SMUGSY WUGSY—Ruffled, shaded dbl. pink.

SO SWEET—Delicate fringed, peach-pink dbl.

SPAN—Pink dbl. star.

SPARKLING WATERS—Deep blue, splashed with very deep purple.

SPIC—Dbl. blue star.

SPINDRIFT—Large pink.

TEMPO—Deep dbl. pink.

TILLIE—Lavender star.

TORCHY—Brilliant pink-red.

VAGABOND—Frlled lavender.

VIV—Vivid red-pink.

WATERLILY—Pink, deep dbl. Yellow center.

WONDER BOY—Clear, large dbl. pink.

STAR BLUE, STAR PINK, STAR WHITE, STAR CELESTIAL, STAR DELIGHT, STAR OF THE NORTH, STAR PERFECTION, STAR SAPPHIRE—

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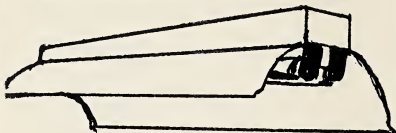
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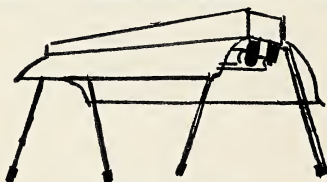
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MODEL FH220**

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GIBBERELIC ACID EXPERIMENTS

Katherine W. Grant, Fayetteville, New York

I was extremely interested in Geraldine Coleman's "Addendum on Gibberellic Acid" in the December issue, because her experience has been so different from mine. However, I used a much weaker solution of the acid, five parts per million, as against her one hundred parts per million.

I chose pairs of the same kind of plants as near the same size as possible and sprayed only one of each pair. If there was any difference in size, I sprayed the smaller and less healthy looking. I tried one inch, two inch, and three inch plants, also some larger ones that were in bud. In every case the treated plant began showing signs of growth within a few days and bloomed earlier than the untreated ones.

A few of the plants began looking very "leggy", as though they were reaching for more sunshine. I gave these more light and fertilizer and they soon out-distanced their mates in every way. They even produced larger flowers.

Up to this time, I had not experimented with mature plants. However, I had a Pink Fringe that had stood around looking droopy for several months until I was on the point of throwing it out to make more room in the greenhouse. Instead, I gave it one spraying with the gibberellic mix. The next day its leaves ceased drooping. Right now it has seventeen blooms and looks very healthy indeed.

This experience inspired me to try the acid on some plants that appeared to be in a prolonged dormant stage. All responded immediately by putting out buds. A Thunderhead that had been badly damaged by a fall has also taken on a new lease on life.

I have tried giving certain plants two or three treatments at ten day intervals. Most of the last have become too elongated and scraggly looking to be pretty, but they certainly have developed fast.

So do not throw out your gibberellic acid yet, at least not until you have tried it out in a weaker solution on some of your more backward plants. Just think, I had all this fun with only twenty-four drops of the stuff!

However, I would not recommend the treatment except on an experimental basis because I think a great deal depends on the hardness of the variety, the conditions of light, heat and so on. I myself would not hesitate to use one spraying, no greater than ten parts per million, on any plant. A second treatment ten days later has not harmed any of the Saintpaulias, but the third treatment has, in many cases, resulted in overstimulation and spindly growth. end

President's Message



I appreciate very much the honor and the opportunity you people have given me by electing me to the highest office in the African Violet Society. I appreciate even more the advance expression of confidence and good will that your vote denotes. I very much hope that I can so handle your Society's affairs that you will be able to give me just as much a vote of confidence and good will at the termination of my term of office as you already have at its beginning.

The African Violet Society is a non-profit organization. It does not exist to make money for folks. One of its purposes is to enable you people — its members — to get more pleasure and enjoyment from raising and growing African Violets. There is something impressive and up-lifting in the thought of fifteen thousand people banded together in an endeavor to increase their skill and thereby their pleasure in such a simple yet soul satisfying recreation as that one. For the instinct to grow things in the soil is one of the basic urges of the human race, and is, historically, important among the developments that have helped to lift the savage up from his beastliness to what we now call civilization. In these complicated, confusing and conflicting days, it is good to get back to the simple basic and fundamental pleasures of mankind, even if just for a little while.

Of course, one way to increase the enjoyment of our membership is to increase the membership. If the total enjoyment that fifteen thousand members have in African Violets adds up to a certain amount, it is obvious that the similar total for twenty thousand members would be a considerably larger amount. So one of my objectives as President is to increase the membership of the African Violet Society. That is easy to say, but when you are looking right down the throat of the job of actually increasing the number of our members, you realize that one individual just naturally can not do it by himself. One divided by fifteen thousand works out to be a mighty small fraction.

It will take the efforts of all of us, constructively applied, to build the membership of the African Violet Society up to what it can and should be. Among the ways to do this is to assist and build up the local organizations — what we call the Affiliated Chapters. There, at the grass roots, is a place where real constructive building up can produce results worth while. And there is where nearly all of our present members can lend, and to a large extent, already are lending, a hand. Show enough people how to successfully grow African Violets; help them to overcome the initial failures and ensuing disappointments which nearly all of us have gone through; enable them to attain to the pleasures and joy of growing really good Violets; and the National Society membership will take care of itself. As one of our members said, years ago, comparing our Society with other horticultural organizations, — "But then, you see, we have the African Violet."

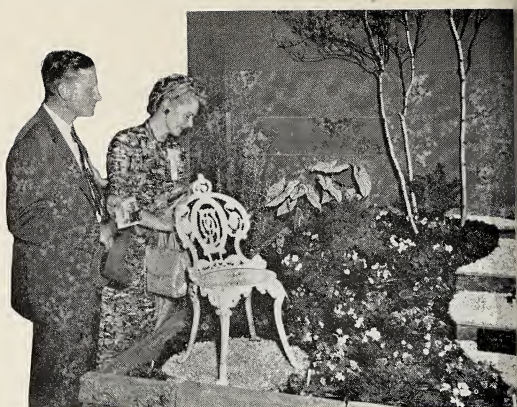
To help out in this development at the grass roots, the National Society has two committees — the Affiliated Chapters Committee and the Library Committee. Maxine Wangberg, out in Harlowton, Montana, heads up the Affiliated Chapters Committee this year as she has for a number of years past. She has well earned the affectionate cooperation and whole hearted support which you have given her. She has brought to the irritating details and the aggravating rule enforcement features of her job, a patience, an enthusiasm, and a sympathetic understanding beyond compare.

Maisie Yakie, way down in Port Arthur, Texas, heads up the Library Committee. She has assembled program material for the local societies and will make every effort to assist the distracted local society program chairman to work up a worth while meeting for her chapter. Maisie has had to work out her own procedure, starting with pitifully inadequate material. But the Society is back of her, and with their backing, her hard work, and her steadily improving technique and material, she is developing her committee activities to a point where they can contribute importantly to the successful operation of the local societies.

So in this, my first message to you, I am asking that every one of you help out in increasing the membership of the National Society. I ask you to cooperate to the fullest with Maisie Yakie and Maxine Wangberg to improve the quality and increase the quantity of the local Affiliated Chapters. There are something over three hundred of them now; let's push it up to well over four hundred by the time the Detroit Convention rolls around.

H. G. Haney

VIOLET TIME IN ROCHESTER



Above, Mrs. Marjorie Moir and Mr. L. Catton of St. Catherines, Canada, examining display of African violets.



Above, Mrs. Willis Waite and Mrs. Ralph Elliott of Middlebury, Vermont, discussing the Convention with Mr. and Mrs. Montague Free.



Below, Seeing the Amateur Show.



Left, The Amateur and Commercial exhibits are enjoyed by all.



Left, Mr. Homer S. Hane of Berkeley, Michigan, buying plants from Mrs. H. V. Olds.

Right, Many amateur photographers take home lasting memories of the show.



Left, Enthusiastic crowds linger at the lovely displays.

Right, Always well attended, the long lines of Convention guests show the popularity of the National Show.



"VIOLETS IN THE FLOWER CITY"

CONVENTION REPORT ON THE AMATEUR AND PROFESSIONAL SHOWS

Joe Schulz, Indianapolis, Indiana

Each year, while feasting my eyes on the beauty of the Convention Shows, I avow that the plants in the amateur show could not be more beautiful and that there is nothing new for the professional (formerly referred to as "commercial") grower to introduce. I dare say that most of the perennial Convention attendees would agree with me. Then what happens? Each Convention is as perfect or better than the last and the professional growers present new and entirely different varieties that take your breath away and you suddenly realize that there is no limit to what we can expect from these plants that are so much a part of our daily lives.

The Rochester Convention was no exception to the rule. There were gorgeous "Violets in the Flower City," and I have the almost impossible task of trying to reduce to the printed word the beauty and the thrill of the Rochester Shows.

Before I go any further let me make this statement. What I report here is the way I saw the shows, the locale, the plants and my impressions of them. Anything that is omitted is purely accidental and not intentional, — and should not be mistaken as a slight to anyone or anything. There is so much going on, so much to see and so much to take notes on that I'm bound to have missed something for which I am indeed sorry and I do apologize.

Something else I want to make clear. When I give descriptions of the shows, including arrangements and plants, these descriptions are my own, as I saw them through my eyes. They could be a lot different from an official description.

Now that we understand the conditions under which this report is prepared, let's get down to brass tacks.

First let's set the stage for the show. It might be more fun if we know something about the area where the shows were staged. So here goes.

The shows were staged in two adjoining rooms on the roof of the Sheraton Hotel. As you came out of the elevators you looked into the room where most of the arrangement classes were presented and where the professional growers had their sales tables. Directly opposite the entrance to this room was a beautiful garden display staged by James H. West and Sons, Inc., of Rochester. This display announced the theme of the show, both in design and by styrofoam lettering on either side of the display. Pictured here was a small garden on a raised platform with a low brick retaining wall. Starting in the lower right foreground, a gravel path wound up a small knoll in a slight diagonal across the garden. Just short of the top of the knoll, and a

little to the left of center was planted a large clump birch tree beginning to leaf out, replete with a yellow bird in the branches. At the left foreground was a tiny patio with a white wrought iron garden chair. The ground covering was peat moss into which had been sunk a great number of well grown violet varieties in full flower that presented a rainbow of coloring. Back-lighting gave this display an enchanting quality and to say the least, it was BEAUTIFUL.

Around this oblong room the professional growers presented their newest varieties for sale. Down the center of the room were two long tables, broken by wide aisles through the middle in both directions. On these tables, backed by individual cardboard backs that resembled a three-sided vanity mirror, were most of the arrangements.

Before we get involved with descriptions of plants and things, let's go see how the other show room was set up. This too was an oblong room with purple drapes around all the walls. In the center of the room, the amateur show plants were displayed on tables placed in a "U" shape with a wide aisle through the middle. The tables were covered in white. Glass blocks formed the base for glass shelves down the middle of these tables. Plants were staged on top of the shelves and on either side.

The professional growers had their display tables around the edge of this room backed by the aforementioned purple drapes. 'Twas mighty pretty.

Enough chatter — let's get to the real beauty of the Convention — the gorgeous plants and arrangements. Again let me say I'll give you only a cursory outline of the award winning plants, etc. The details on special awards will appear in a later issue of the magazine.

For a true description of some of the outstanding plants on exhibition, amateur and professional, check the pictures that are presented along with this report. You know the old Chinese proverb, "One picture is worth ten thousand words." It's true, mere words cannot do them justice.

THE AMATEUR SHOW

The "QUEEN" of the show — the winner of the Silver Cup — was truly what the name implies. A magnificent plant of White Pride Supreme was elevated to this lofty title. Mrs. Edward Casey, of Rochester, grew this plant into a state of almost absolute perfection. The deep, emerald green foliage, in excellent sym-



The highest amateur award of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., the SILVER CUP won by Mrs. Edward Casey of Rochester, N. Y., with White Pride Supreme.

metry, was all but covered with huge, full double white blooms. Truly a regal plant. Right up there with the Queen was a tremendous specimen of Clarissa Harris, definitely worthy of inclusion in the "Court of Honor." Besides "Clarissa" a gorgeous plant of Innocence ranked in the charmed "Top Three" circle. The people who grew these plants are past masters at the art of producing beauty and perfection.

Not only did Mrs. Casey win the Silver Cup, but her many other beautifully grown plants were also responsible for her "Sweepstake" award. Mrs. Casey may be diminutive in stature but she sho can grow violets in a great big way.

Here are the individual class winners. Please remember the amateur show was judged on the merit basis, hence there were several blue ribbons awarded in many classes. Presented here are only the blue ribbon winners as an indication of the varieties the amateur growers chose to groom as show plants. Again, as in previous years, many of the winners are faithful, standby varieties that can and do hold their own in competition with the many newer things.

SECTION 1—Single Blossom

- Class 1—Dark Blues or Purples
Valor
- Class 2—Medium Blues
Santa Maria
- Class 3—Light Blues
None
- Class 4—Reds to Violets
Masquerade, Wine Velvet
- Class 5—Lavender and Orchids
Lavender Dream
- Class 6—Bi-Colors
Boyce Edens, Southern Lassie
- Class 7—Two Tones
Ellen's Reward, Fringem Sun-

day Best, Edith Cavell, Clarissa Harris

- Class 8—Pinks
TV Vallinpink, Pink Miracle

- Class 9—Whites
Innocence

- Class 10—DuPonts, Supremes and Amazons
None

SECTION II—Double Blossoms

- Class 11—Purples
Cavalier, Cydonia, Student Prince, Coon Valley, Chopin

- Class 12—Blues
Blue Nocturne, St. Louis, Kimberly, Iris, TV Summer Cloud and Southern Blue Waltz

- Class 13—Reds
Rose Double, Roslinda, Dbl. Wine Spoon and Dbl. Black Cherry

- Class 14—Pinks
Dbl. Pink Cheer, Bud's Pink Mermaid, Holiday, Blue Pink, Pink Princess, Minnesota, Olivia, Strike Me Pink, So Sweet, Sonnet, Pink Ideal, Flamingo, Gladness, Chippewa, Rochester, Marcella, Pink Prelude, Beaming, Lyon's Camellia

- Class 15—Whites
White Pride, White Pride Supreme, White Madonna, and New Alma Wright

- Class 16—Variegated
Fancy Pants, Autumn Moon, Bridesmaid and Onandaga Chief

Class 17 — Lavenders and Orchids
Dbl. Orchid Girl, Will Hayes,
Rosalinde, Southern Sun set,
Three Cheers, Chaska and TV
Summer Dream

Class 18 — Bi-Colors and Two-Tones
TV Jealousy and Dbl. Raspberry

Class 19 — DuPonts, Amazons and Supremes
Mona Lisa, Cara Mia, Blushing
Supreme, White Pride Supreme
and Double Dandy

SECTION III — Single or Double
Class 20 — Novelties, including Miniatures
Dolly Dimples, Fleur de Lis,
Herkimer Variegated Girl and
Winter Night

Class 21 — Specimen, AV Species
S. tongwensis and S. orbicularis

Classes 22 and 23 — Specimen, Gesneriaceae family and collection three registered different named varieties, respectively
None

Class 24 — Specimen Seedlings

To say that the first place seedling was gorgeous is almost a trite statement. To be chosen the best from the quality of plants that made up this class is definitely a distinctive honor. I'm quite sure Mrs. Robert Lanigan, of Rochester, is a mighty proud lady because of her win. Her 1st place winner had a number of large, ruffled, fully double blue-lavender blossoms held nicely above the foliage on pinkish-red bloom stalks. There was a hint of deeper coloring rayed out from the eye of each petal. The foliage was that gorgeous black-green Holly or TV type, slightly cupped, and waved, with a hint of serrating on the edges. The petioles were pinkish and the back of the leaves a glistening white with a bluish tint and faint veining showing. Put those beautiful blooms on top of this flat, symmetrical plant and you have a word picture of the BEST seedling.

A second blue ribbon winner had gorgeous deep forest green, serrated flat girl foliage with a creamy throat. The blossoms were profuse, nice size white single with a medium blue eye held well above the foliage on green bloom stalks.

Another blue ribbon winner was a Dixie Moonbeam type single blossom plant that had large, flat bronzy-green boy foliage.

The fourth and final blue ribbon winner in this class was another plant belonging to Mrs. Lanigan. This one had a great number of large, full ruffled double medium dark blue blooms held well above the waved, quilted and pointed boy foliage with red reverse. The foliage on this was a bit upright. You would think of Blue Nocturne when looking at this plant.

None of the blue ribbon winning seedlings had been given a name as yet.

We have reached the arrangement classes in following our show schedule. Here are the blue ribbon winners in each class.

SECTION IV — Arrangements

Class 25 — Unusual Containers

"Fantasy Trail" was the name given to the first place entry in this class. It was exhibited by Mrs. Irene Pope of Acton, Indiana, and was transported from Acton to Rochester intact. This exhibit won a \$25 prize from Rose Acre Nursery.

This was a rather large, old weathered stump that had planted in holes in it fern, episcias, and small blue, pink and Fantasy violets. Growing around the base was green moss. It was a most attractive arrangement and to say the least, it was unusual.

Class 26 — Spring Time

The blue ribbon in this class was awarded to a driftwood arrangement. A triangular piece of driftwood was planted with a Chocolate Soldier episcia and a double purple girl violet. A little china wren was perched in the driftwood above the flowers.

Class 27 — His Alone. Two Sections.

A — Arrangement of violet blooms for a man's desk

This was a clever white china cigarette holder divided into two parts. One part contained cigarettes. In the other part there were ivy foliage, a sprig of blue spring bulb bloom, and double blue violet blooms. At the base stood a china child and a dog.

B — Violet plant in container for man's desk

A quite masculine brown china pipe planted with a very pretty light blue double girl violet.

A china Palomino horse planted with a gorgeous red-orchid violet.

Class 28 — Theme of the Show

A large flat tan rock formed the base on which rested a shallow, cupped-



Mrs. Lanigan's "Seedling B" first place winner in specimen seedling class.

lip copper container with a nice double orchid violet, backed by green spring sprigs. On the right side of the arrangement, still on the rock base, was a miniature camera. Clever!

Class 29 — Terrarium, snifter or glass container

On a pale pink place mat sat a snifter containing a double pink violet, backed by variegated ivy (Glacier) and another light green viny plant in front. To one side stood two stately, clear glass egrets or cranes.

Class 30 — "Drifting and Dreaming" using driftwood and violets

On a flat, sandy looking base rested a piece of driftwood that sort of swirled from the base upward. Planted at the base was a white girl violet. To one side, casually placed, was another small piece of driftwood. Balancing the arrangement on the other side was a small Sea Captain figurine.

Class 31 — Cup and Saucer

A tiny, bright pink cup, backed by its saucer was filled with double pink violet blooms and small, ferny-type leaves. Another, a very small pink cup and saucer was filled with orchid and blue violet blooms, girl violet leaves, purple spring bulb blooms and green spring foliage.

SECTION V — Year Books

The awards in this class will be described by Mrs. Layson in her column.

That completes the amateur division picture. At the risk of being redundant, I must say the amateur show was terrific and you should not have missed it.

THE PROFESSIONAL SHOW

Working on the premise that almost everyone is primarily interested in the newest and latest the professional grower has to offer, I would like to present here the unbelievable new things

we can expect to obtain some fine day, with a short description of each variety. Many of these things are still so new no stock has been built up by the grower.

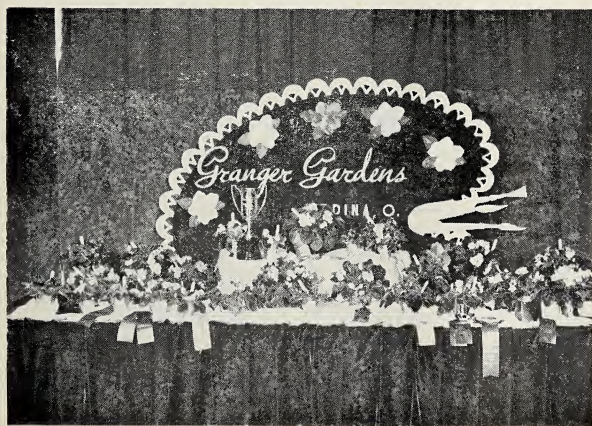
Please remember that what I write here is my personal idea and is a description of the plants I liked. The originator might disagree, so take what I write as my bird's eye view of these plants and not the official word. I should also explain that it would be an impossible task to list and describe all that was displayed. I'll try to present a fairly representative selection from each grower.

There were a number of blue ribbons awarded in the professional division. I will not attempt to list all the blue ribbon wins. Suffice it to say, each display was beautiful and the plants "out-of-this-world."

The best professional display award, the Commercial Silver Trophy, went to Granger Gardens. The best seedling ribbon in the professional show went to Naomi's African Violets (Marve and Naomi Weeks), Brockport, N. Y. I can not find the superlatives to adequately describe the beauty of "Pink Drift," their winning variety. To say it was beautiful is an understatement. The foliage is medium sized, rounded, quilted, and is a slick dense black-green with red petioles and red reverse. Literally covering the absolutely flat growing and symmetrical plant were large, bright raspberry pink full double blossoms. The Weekses hit the jackpot on this plant.

To cover the professional show, let's go back to the entrance to the show room and take each grower in consecutive order as we proress around the room, starting to the left of the entrance.

I'm sure it is needless to mention that the plants shown by the professional growers had an abundance of bloom and were well groomed. In fact I would say that almost without exception these new plants could be termed very prolific.



Winning the Commercial Silver Trophy was the Granger Garden's exhibit. The deep blue palette bordered with huge blossoms in assorted colors, made a spot of beauty that drew admiring crowds, and served as a background for the many beautiful Granger plants.



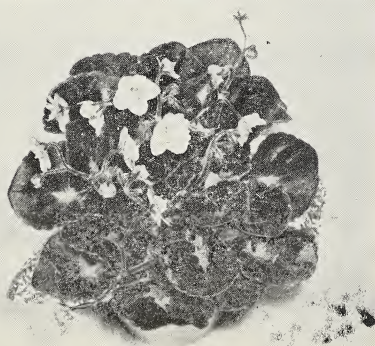
Viv

The first display we find belongs to J. H. West and Sons, Inc., of Rochester. All the plants presented by the Wests were magnificently grown specimen plants. Most were of varieties we have known before. The excellence of these plants was in the radiant, vibrant health and in their large size. Mr. West told me they potted these plants into their new organic soil mixture last November. I recall a blue ribbon on a gorgeous "Bud's Pink Mermaid." There were numerous other ribbons also.

A new variety to me was Double Orchid Prince Supreme. Here we have tremendous deep red-orchid full double blossoms just at the top of the deep green, heavy foliage. The foliage is the same shape and type as the regular Dbl. Orchid Prince but with heavy substance of the Supremes. Growth habit was flat and as symmetrical as a cart wheel. I'd like this one for my collection.

Beside the Wests', we find the Richter's Greenhouse, Hammond, Indiana, display. Mrs. Richter's display was set off by a large natural colored background with big pictures (black and white) of her newest varieties. Placed at the base of the display were her show plants, in stair-step fashion. Crinoline — remember that name — is one they have not introduced yet, but

Her Grace



Bud's Pink Mermaid

it was pictured. It is a ruffled pink on good, dark holly-type foliage. In addition to beautiful plants of prior introductions such as Valor, etc., there were several new ones that caught my eye.

Torchy — You have seen this one advertised. A nice size vivid red or pink-red, borne in profusion. Dark green, dull, pointed boy foliage of medium size.

Viv — A great deal like Torchy but with darker foliage. With these two and some of the reds of the other growers, we can expect many, many new brighter reds.

Great Day — Full double, large, hot pink with darker eye. Dark green, dull pointed boy foliage on light pinkish petioles. Large leaves and will be a huge grower. Good substance. Excellent.

Melo — Large, bright pink single. Nice size, dark green, rounded boy foliage with slight quilting.

Alabaster — Nice full double white showing lots of chartreuse. Rounded, medium green, slick boy foliage on pale petioles.

Her Grace — High standing, bright pink full double. Flat blooms. Good substance, bright green girl with green throat and slight spooning.

Yulanda — A nice pink similar to Melo.

Kathy Purple — Nice size, full double purple Geneva. Slightly waved, pointed, slick medium-green foliage.

Luna — A good double white girl with good growing habit.

Renee — A rich purple-crested-center double held high. Nice, medium green girl.

Daphne — Similar to Yulanda

Next we come to the Lyndon Lyon display. After the impact his "star" plants made on the violet world last year, we had every reason to expect something new and different this year,

too. Mr. Lyon did not disappoint us, and here is what was shown on a three-tiered set-up with a free form back-drop in dark blue with the Lyon name in glittering gold letters.

Bonne Foi — A medium blue semi-double star of nice size. Good size, bronzy-green foliage with veining showing and red reverse. Flat, symmetrical growth habit.

Star Pink (new) — A much improved Star Pink. Large, bright blooms. Very good dark foliage.

Little Jewel — A very ruffled, fiery pink held above the foliage on red bloom stalks. Wavy, dark green slick boy foliage with red reverse. Very nice.

Spic and Span — These two you have seen described before. Excellent star doubles. Spic is blue, Span is pink.

RSZ — Reddish purple, very fringed rounded blossom single with a hint of white on some petal edges. Quite large. Very dark, crinkled edge, red reverse foliage.

RSY — Very large, ruffled full double brightest pink on red bloom stalks. Round, waved and ruffled deep green foliage on red petioles.

IIF — Large, medium pink double star. Dark green, pointed, slightly quilted foliage.

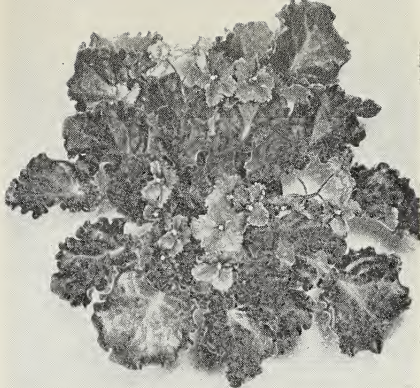
IVS — Imagine, a nice size white with red-pink splotches and a ruffled chartreuse edge! Light green notched edge, rounded foliage. Sure it is **NEW**.

IVA — Add a double flower to the description of IVS and that's IVA.

Lingo — Large, ruffled full double orchid. Excellent, black Holly or TV type foliage, but much nicer.

IVK — Gorgeous, huge, very ruffled, mottled plum red-orchid single. A new shade and beautiful. Rounded, waved and ruffled deep green and bronzy foliage with red reverse.

Vagabond — Ruffled, red orchid single with deeper edging rayed out from the eye. Beautiful



RSY Seedling

dark shiny boy foliage that can best be described as like patent leather.

IVI — Very large, brightest pink with lots of raspberry coloring. Foliage similar to RSY but of the patent leather type.

IVL — Small, double, almost bright red with chartreuse edging. Very waved, slick yet bumpy, light-green foliage.

Redderness — As you have heard, here is the beginning of our real reds — along with some of the other "red" types shown by other growers. This, while not too large, is a bright, cherry red. Small, dark, pointed foliage.

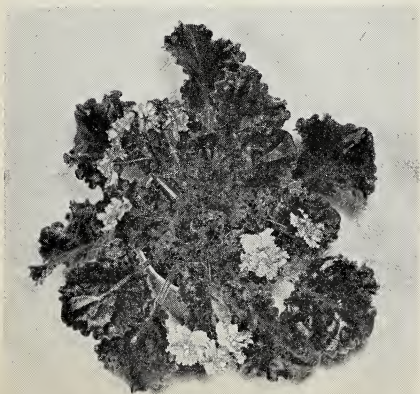
Raspberry Pink — Huge, full double bright raspberry pink. Foliage is dark green boy — as I remember it.

IVJ — Raspberry pink tint flower with chartreuse edge. RSY type foliage, but dark like patent leather.

RSD — Pink-purple single like IVK. Foliage like IVK also, but darker with longer petioles.

When you talk about Fischer's Greenhouse and Paul Rockelmann you hit a real snag. It is a "which came first, the chicken or the egg"

IVK Seedling



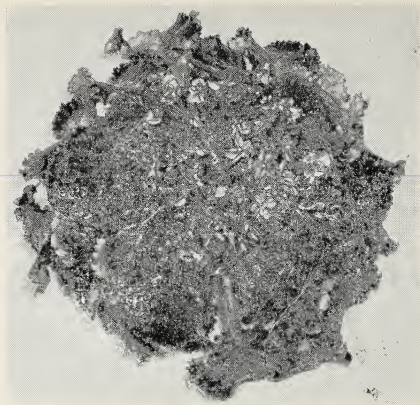
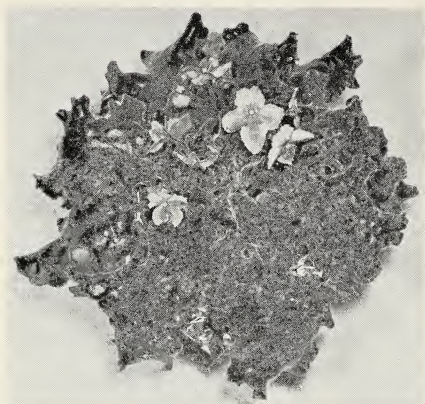
R-30





R-31

Coloramic



Caravan Masquerade

R24 — Large, full double ruffled pink with darker center. Excellent, waved dark green foliage.

R25 — A large, ruffled, hot pink single. Gorgeous dark green, waved, rounded foliage. A honey.

R1 — Huge, full ruffled double medium blue. Nice dark foliage.

R13 — Very fringed, full double pink with darker eye. Wavy, dark green foliage.

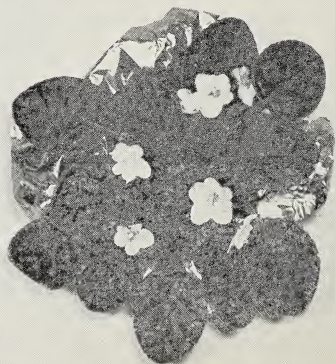
R26 — Monstrous, very prolific medium pink semi-double. Very large, dull dark green, round, quilted foliage.

R27 — Very large and waved bright pink with darker eye. Very prolific. Nice dark green, flat foliage.

R28 — A much improved "Sequin" with very ruffled edges. Prolific. Nice, large black-green, waved foliage.

R30 — Similar to R28.

Pink Imp (F. M. Haga & Son)



situation. At any rate, the two certainly go together, and make Linwood, N. J., a well-known place in the violet world.

What would a convention be without Paul and the Fischer's display? We have all grown to expect many new, exciting, and different varieties from this combination every year. True to expectations, Paul displayed the fruits of the past year's labors and are they TERRIFIC. Paul really hit pay dirt with his current seedlings. Not only do they have excellent size and coloring, but the foliage is tremendous.

Fischer's had two displays. At one end of the room they had a display of their current releases — those that are advertised in their current color folder. At the opposite end, adjacent to Lyon's, they displayed the newest seedlings. What do you think of these?

R31 — Nice size, very, very fringed, ruffled medium pink, with some double blooms. Foliage like R28.

R23 — A gorgeous, creamy pink very ruffled single. You might call this a Palomino color. Nice, dark foliage like the rest, but not as large.

R20 — Nice ruffled single pink. Foliage similar to the others.

R18 — Large, very ruffled, cupped light blue-mauve single that is most prolific. Excellent Holly or "new" type, medium green foliage.

R17 — A gorgeous pale, flesh pink like R23, but larger. Same foliage as R23.

Listing all of Fischer's seedlings would take more time and space than I have. I'll just group a number of others, as to their bloom and coloring. The foliage on all these was excellent, improved dark green.

There were nice ruffled whites, purples, double red-orchids, mauve-orchids, pink with a raspberry eye, and a gorgeous, large creamy pink single.

Guess I'll have to start a feudin' with Lyndon Lyon and Paul Rockelmann. How will we ever know these plants when they are offered for sale if these guys do not put names on them so we can identify those we want to add to our collections?

The "Caravan" and "Transylvania" Buynaks, of Cleveland, set up shop next door to Fischer's seedling display. Again Mr. and Mrs. Buynak showed those whopping big plants with their fantastic, pliable foliage that has ruching on the edges. Unless you have seen these plants "in the flesh" you just can't imagine the tremendous size. The new ones are just as huge as the ones introduced last year at Cincinnati.

Caravan Masquerade — Purple and white single blooms in profusion. Typical black-green Caravan foliage.

Caravan Coachman — A single purple similar to C. Masquerade in size. Foliage like C. Masquerade.

Caravan 10-B. — Another purple and white stripe similar to C. Masquerade.

Masquerade



Lotus Suntone



So Sweet Sport



Temptin





Peach Chiffon

Caravan Arabian Knight — Similar to Caravan Coachman.

Transylvania Fairy — A nice orchid and white single. Excellent medium green foliage, not too large.

Seedling (no name) — A prolific double medium pink. Modified dark green girl foliage.

Caravan PH-4 — I've never been "hepped" on mottled foliage, but in this plant we have a real break. This was a sport, still attached to the parent leaf. The basic color of the plant was a medium pink with some white and green splotches here and there in the leaf blade. If it will propagate true we're on the road to colored foliage.

Transylvania Countess — Large, single bright pink with a darker eye. Prolific. Huge, plain black-green quilted foliage.

Transylvania Flirty Eyes — Pretty purple and white striped, sweet-pea single with purple rays on the petal edges. Very nice, waved, medium green girl foliage with a bright green throat.

If an award had been made for the professional grower traveling the greatest distance, F. M. Haga and Son, Charlotte, N. C., would have won hands down. Mr. and Mrs. Haga traveled all that distance with a load of gorgeous, new violets, some of which are described here. Their display was outlined in the front by a band of beautiful pink episcias.

Sleeping Beauty



In The Pink — Prolific, full double medium pink. Dark green, pointed foliage of nice size.

Dovey — Full double white, faintly tinted all over with orchid, has green buds. Black, waved Holly-type foliage.

Haga's Fantasy — Large, full double, light colored Fantasy blossoms. Dark-green foliage like In The Pink.

Bronze Cameo — Medium sized peach pink full double. Black-green pointed foliage.

Dragon Fly — Round, light mauve single, with a small, distinct white eye (like a hood over the pollen sacs) with a deep band of orchid around the petal edge. Light-green foliage on long petioles.

Red Bud — Small, cherry-red full double. Regular, deep green foliage.

Spatterdash — Full, double white with purple eye. Large, medium-green foliage.

Pink Lite — A full, double honey-pink. Good, dark, regular foliage.

Miss Charlotte — A nice, single white. Medium-to-light-green Holly foliage.

Flying Saucer — Small white blooms, with ruffled chartreuse edge. The bloom was rather cupped, yet the two side petals stood straight out like wings. Light-green Holly foliage. Enchanting and novel.

Caroline Belle — Ruffled, white single with orchid eye. Medium-green Holly foliage.

Coloramic — Nice, mottled, orchid-and-white fringed single. Very heavy substance, dark Holly-type foliage.

Mauve Gold Lace — Mauve, with chartreuse edge like Flying Saucer. Lavender Gold Lace, White Gold Lace, and Blue Gold Lace were the same but different coloring. All had light-green Holly-type foliage.

Cherry Pink — The name described the color. Foliage was large, light-green.

Big Dipper — Large, pale mauve, almost white with deeper mauve eye and slightly tinted petal edges. Large, light-green, Supreme foliage.

As we go along the old fashioned nosegay staging of the next exhibit was entirely in keeping with its originator, Mary Meeds, dainty, Dresden like. The full white skirt and the table covering of dark maroon filmy material, gathered, and draped at the edge with a violet plant nestling in each drape, reminded one of the old graceful days.

Each year, The Select Violet House of Youngstown, Ohio, shows some new, exciting varieties. This year, Mary Meeds had a number of new seedlings originated by Art Straitiff (AS).

Lady Pepperall (AS) — A pretty, double white, variegated and shaded with orchid. Medium green, heavy substance foliage.

Mayflower (AS) — Nice size, peachy pink single Dark green, heavy substance, cupped regular foliage.

Clematis Blue (AS) — Star-shaped, medium blue, semi-double. Smallish, cupped medium green regular foliage.

Air Waves Sport — Imagine an Air Waves Supreme!



Pink Cameo

Lotus Suntone—An excellent, shaded hot-and-medium-pink full double. Very good, longish, pointed, heavy substance medium green girl foliage.

Seedling—Full, double-ruffled, star-shaped mauve. Smallish, medium green, pointed, Holly-type foliage.

So Sweet Sport—So Sweet is a honey! Now we have a full double white with chartreuse tints just like So Sweet.

Seedling—Huge, full double, medium pink. Regular foliage.

Sunrise Red—A rayed raspberry red with shaded edge. A single. Regular foliage.

Improved Decal—Ruffled white single, with orchid eye and petal edge. Heavy substance, dark medium green wavy foliage.

Sparky—Large, round white single, with plum-red star markings. Nice dark green, quilted foliage. Very pretty.

Seedling—A deep blue double Geneva. Regular foliage.

We can always expect something good, new, different and unconventional from Granger Gardens of Medina, Ohio. This year was no exception. Mrs. Eyerdom had a beautiful display. This display was backed by a large palette in deep blue, bordered with huge violet blossoms in varied colors. The table was covered with dark velvet and the plants were displayed in a stair-step fashion. Not all of their very newest were shown.

Masquerade—This plant appealed to me more than any other from Granger's. Mrs. Eyerdom will laugh when she sees this description as we discussed how to describe this plant and I don't think it can be done. At least I'll try to do it so you can form a mental picture of the plant. It was a pale mauve, ruffled, full double with erratic darker mauve spotting. The petals at the rim of the bloom were marked and rayed with Black. The foliage was dense black, waved, serrated and pointed with blood red reverse.

Matchmate—A full double light-blue Geneva with wide creamy edge. Heavy substance. Very dark, pointed, waved and quilted, deep red reverse foliage.

Temptin—At last, a sequel to Innocence. A huge white single with a faint pink eye. Very prolific. Black, wavy, serrated, pointed, red-backed foliage that was hairy but shiny. Growth very flat and compact.

Royal Dubonnet—Full double wine, large. Small Supreme foliage.

Gibson Girl—Monstrous, deep-blue Geneva single. Huge, black-green girl. Could have been a Supreme.

Irresistible—Large, full double white with purple edge to each petal. Supreme foliage.

Ember Dream—Large, flat, double raspberry pink. Heavy, bronzy-green, quilted and slightly spooned foliage with red reverse.

White Gold—A gorgeous Supreme version of White Goddess.

Martha—Ruffled, medium pink single. Dark, modified girl foliage.

May Melody—Very fringed, medium blue, full double. Waved, serrated, medium green, pointed foliage, red reverse.

Dorothy Gray—Prolific, full double light pink and chartreuse. Different. Medium green modified girl foliage.

Constance Hansen—Named for our Registration Committee Chairman. Prolific, very fringed, medium-to-dark-blue, full double. Very dark foliage like May Melody.

Beauty Bride—Round petaled, round flower, full double, blue-mauve and white. Very good substance in this dark-green regular foliage.

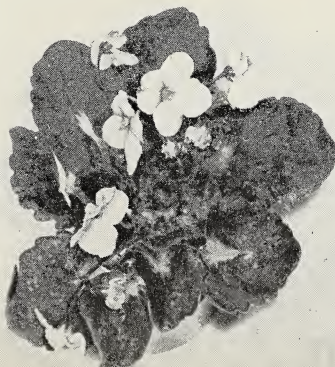
Mrs. Landaker—Obviously named for our own Priscilla Landaker. Very fringed, full double white with chartreuse. White Goddess foliage. Exquisite.

Good News—Huge, full double, fringed dark pink with dark eye. Nice, waved, hairy, medium-green foliage.

Ann Hoffman—Strike Me Pink Supreme. Nuff said ? !

Green Years—Medium size, full double white with distinct green tint. Very black, slick, quilted, Holly-type foliage. Red reverse.

Frilled Helen Van Pelt Wilson



April Love—Light blue-mauve full double, with a green tint on outer petals. Nice, black-green girl foliage.

Pride of Rochester—Light pink, full double ruffled bloom. Foliage like Good News.

Pink Amour—Bright, hot pink with darker eye. Ruffled or fringed petal edges. Small, dark, Holly-type foliage. Very Good.

Roberta—Semi-double blue Geneva. Small, heavy, modified girl foliage.

Elfin Dream—Full double, ruffled, blush-pink with outer petals edged in chartreuse. Chartreuse buds. Heavy, oak leaf, light-green girl foliage.

Rob Roy—Gorgeous, huge, full double orchid bi. Nice, bronzy-green pointed and quilted foliage.

Peach Chiffon—Large, full double, ruffled, creamy peach-pink. Dreamy. Large, deep green heavy substance foliage with serrated edges. An excellent show plant.

Truly Fair—Huge, fringed, white, shaded medium-blue double. Prolific. Waved, dull green Supreme foliage. Magnificent.

Royal Chiffon—Fringed, mottled, single, medium-blue. Pointed, quilted, slightly waved black foliage. Bright, blood-red reverse.

Eileen—Large, single ruffled bright pink with sparkling petals faintly mottled with darker pink. Large, modified black girl foliage. Gorgeous.

Mrs. Rand, of Madison Gardens, Madison, Ohio, is a violet grower after my own heart. She specializes in Supremes, and I go for them like a pig after corn. Her display was right beside Granger's and was cute as a bug's ear. Small palm trees made of feathers, a blue in one corner of her display and a pink in the other, set the stage for the African motif. In the center was a circular dais in several tiers that held plants, and in back of this, in a sorta shadow box window, sat more of her new things. She also had some of her last year's varieties that are still exciting.

Mutant (no name)—A huge, deep orchid and white mottled, full double. Dark, semi-Supreme foliage.

Indian Princess—Large, ruffled, shaded orchid and white single. Medium green foliage.

Sparkling Gold—Deep wine, single, with a ruffled chartreuse edge. Regular Supreme foliage.

Pansy Beauty Supreme—A small plant, but a thing of beauty.

Ruffled Dream—Mottled pink-orchid and white fringed bloom of large size. Regular Supreme foliage.

Priscilla—Huge, Supreme white double with chartreuse showing on petals. Small, light-green Supreme foliage.

Robinhood—Pink-lavender with darker markings. A Fantasy-type single. Very dark-green, heavy substance foliage. Red reverse.

Suzy-Q—Swank Supreme.

Grandma Moses—Large, ruffled red-orchid with white rayed upper petals. Regular Supreme foliage.

Stardust—Fringed lavender-orchid of large size. Regular Supreme foliage.

Dark Eyes—Huge orchid DuPont bloom with darker eye. Regular Supreme foliage.

Carousel—A full double white, with rose-pink markings around eye. Small size, regular foliage.

Sleeping Beauty—Huge full double white, with shaded orchid markings. Dark, regular Supreme foliage.

Sky Blue Princess—

Oklahoma—My layman's eye could not distinguish much difference between these two. Huge, full, double, blue blooms. Heavy, Supreme girl foliage. Dark green.

Little Boy Blue—Monstrous medium blue single with very dark eye. Small, heavy substance, serrated edge, red reverse, semi-Supreme.

Renaissance—Quite like Azure Beauty Supreme.

Love Song—Introduced last year. Still a dream. Huge, Supreme double pink.

Pink Cameo—I would have loved to have measured the blooms on this one. I'll bet my bottom dollar (the last one) they would measure 2½ or 3 inches. The color is a nice, medium-pink, full double. Black, Supreme foliage.

Rainbow Girl—An orchid Geneva Supreme. Supreme girl foliage.

Double Moon Maid—If you remember the pretty DuPont Apple Blossom type that was introduced by Madison last year, you can just picture that same plant but with larger blossoms. Dreamy.

Dagmar—Like the celebrated person whose name this plant bears, huge, robust, white single with an orchid eye. Good, regular Supreme foliage. Nice.

Merry Widow—Huge, ruffled, deep purple single. Small, Supreme girl foliage.

Bethayres, Pa., can well be proud of their violet people, Frank and Anne Tinari, who were "neighbors on the right" of Mrs. Rand at the Convention. Not only do the Tinaris come up with some excellent new seedlings, but they can always be counted on to present their plants in a novel manner. They certainly did not disappoint us this year. The idea of their display was a fable, a huge shoe-house (got it?), in pinks and whites. On the other side of their display was a make-believe tree with a bird's nest that swayed back and forth, driven by a tiny motor. Here they had their newest, bearing a title something like, "What's New for Spring," if I remember correctly.

At the Convention in Cincinnati the pink Genevas were on display, but there wasn't too much "to-do" about them. This year, they appeared again, bigger and more beautiful. We know them now as Helen Van Pelt Wilson and Pink Geneva.



Pink Geneva



White Cushion

Helen Van Pelt Wilson — Large, medium pink blooms with a large white band around each petal. Excellent, bright-green girl foliage.

Pink Geneva — The same blossom as above — on emerald green, pointed boy foliage.

Frilled Helen Van Pelt Wilson

Frilled Pink Geneva — The new edition of the two described above, with frilled blooms. Not available yet. Very, very nice.

Geneva Wonder — Nice, large red-purple Geneva. Small, pointed, dark-green boy foliage on long red petioles.

Star Gazer — Full double purple and white. White petals with wide purple edge. Pointed, waved, medium-green regular foliage.

No. 33 — A nice medium-pink single with a darker pink star overlay. Good. Dark, excellent Holly or TV type foliage.

Red Glow — Lush raspberry-red single with raying. A gorgeous color. Medium-green, red back, regular foliage.

Monaco Pink — Bright pink, full double with light ruffling. Medium green, slightly spooning, regular foliage.

No. 17 — I don't know but what this could be the double version of Pink Geneva. It is a

good one. Full double pink, with a distinct white edge to each petal. A different Geneva.

Painted City — A white bi-color?? Nice size, white single, with an orchid edge and two top petals orchid. Small, regular foliage.

Camped next to the Tinari's was the gentleman from Warsaw — N. Y., of course. Although Henry Ten Hagen grows and ships only rooted cuttings, he can sho' whup up some mighty nice show plants without much trouble. His display was loaded with exceptionally well grown plants, of many well known varieties. However, there were a number of varieties that were new to me.

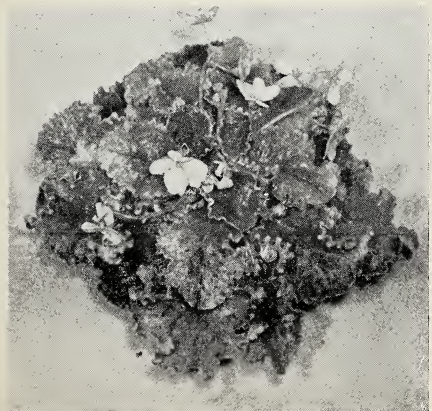
Albino Honeybud — Just what the name implies. A good double pink on albino foliage.

White Cushion — A large white, full double with deep pink eye. Gorgeous. Regular Pink Cushion foliage in a lighter shade.

Pink Angel — A very nice single pink. Deepest green, slick, pointed foliage with deep red reverse. Good growth habit and very symmetrical.

Silver Flute — An off-white single with faint blue edge. Serrated, pointed, light mottled foliage.

Silver Flute



Fair Lady





After Glow

Poly-Hi—Large, ruffled red-orchid single. Ruffled, girl foliage.

Albino Fantasy—Fantasy blossoms on an albino foliage plant.

Topper—Large, deep purple single. Cupped, slick, medium-green foliage.

Easter Egg—An oldy, but long one of my passions, and this was a huge, gorgeous thing.

Pink Feather—A pink and white mottled single. Large, medium-green girl foliage.

Mauve Feather—Like the above, but a nice, light mauve color.

Snowy Princess—A big, red bi-color. Large, dark, bronzy-green, quilted foliage, with red reverse.

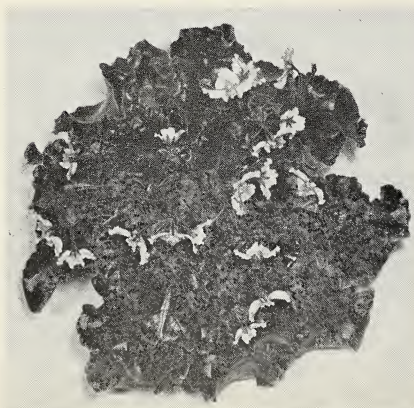
Hollywood Ace—Huge, deep blue double. Easily 2 inches across. Supreme Gent's Blue Cluster foliage.

Darkest Africa—Nice size, round ruffled royal purple single. Medium green, Holly-type foliage. Small growing.

African Girl—Large, ruffled, purple single. Very dark green girl foliage.

Wyoming—Ruffled, medium pink single. Medium green, bronzy waved foliage.

Seedling A-7782



The next display we are to visit on our tour around the showroom belongs to Marve and Naomi Weeks (Naomi's African Violets), Brockport, N. Y. To say that, with their new plants, they blazed across the Convention horizon like a meteor would be putting it mildly. Their new varieties numbered just 12 and their display was composed entirely of these new plants, each a sight to behold.

#6405—A prolific, full double red-orchid. Large, very quilted, pointed, black-green slick foliage. Very flat and symmetrical growth.

Sno Bird—An excellent, medium sized, white single. Foliage similar to White Pride.

Sweetest—Medium pink, sweet pea type single. Flat, black oak leaf girl foliage. Small growing.

#6340—A hot, raspberry pink full double. Vibrant, round, black girl foliage.

#7782—A magnificent, ruffled, single, deep pink with a deeper pink star overlay. Black, slick, patent leather waved Holly-type foliage with slight round notching. Blood red reverse.

Fair Lady—Extra prolific, peach-pink full double. Flat, black, pointed oak leaf girl foliage. Large.

After Glow—A hot, raspberry pink semi-double. Black, flat, waved girl foliage. Good.

Gay Blade—Hot, vibrant-colored raspberry pink single. Huge size. Large, round, cupped girl foliage. Very dark colored.

Jubilee—Huge, peachy-pink semi-double. Monstrous, round, black, very quilted foliage with blood red reverse.

Cameo—Huge, creamy, peach-pink single, slightly waved, upper petals darker pink and fluted. Excellent, large, darkest forest green foliage with red reverse.

Remembrance—Large, medium-pink full double. Very dark, flat, modified girl foliage.

Pink Drift—Previously described as the prize seedling in the professional division.

Alongside the Weeks' display was the "Queen's" throne. Here sat the Queen in a sea of celestial blue netting. That huge white violet nested in the sea of light blue netting with a background of purple made an unforgettable sight.

The last display was the current releases of Fischers. There is not much I can say about them. They are vividly portrayed in a color folder and very adequately described. Just let me say this: Cherry Pink, Spotlight and Pink Constellation are WOWS.

Well, there you have a rather detailed report of the Convention Shows. If anyone has had the courage to read this down to the end, I should like to say, I hope you enjoyed reading about the shows just half as much as I enjoyed telling you about them. It was a terrific experience, and I'm sorry all of you could not have been there to see the displays in person. There is nothing more for me to say about the Convention except this: "Rochester, you were Wonderful." end

HOW TO: LEAF TO BLOSSOM

Daisy Jones, Memphis, Tennessee

As you start reading this article, please, please bear in mind that you are reading the experiences and philosophies of a strictly amateur African violet hobbyist. I want to tell you just how I grow and cultivate my violets from the time I receive a leaf and carry it through the various stages of growth until it bursts forth with its first lovely blossom.

No matter how long the petiole is or how large the leaf is . . . I cut petiole with a sharp razor blade back to one and one half and not more than two inches long. Then dry the tip end or petiole off with a Kleenex to hasten hardening of tip end . . . I place the leaf down into pre-dampened peat moss or vermiculite, and completely cover the container with clear plastic. In ten days to two weeks good roots should be formed . . . at which time I place the leaf in moist violet potting soil or sometimes I continue to let the leaf grow and send up plantlets and in three or four months these plantlets are putting on their individual sets of tiny buds. North and east windows they just love.

When my little plantlets have reached this stage of growth, I can hardly wait for the first bloom to open. Now be honest, how many of you readers have ever picked up a plant and huffed and puffed with your moist breath . . . trying to get the bloom to hasten opening? Well, I am sure that I am not the only one to admit this. My next step is of utmost importance. Therefore, being prepared for any emergency of re-potting, I always keep a good supply of moist potting soil handy . . . so now I am ready to shift my lovely first year bloomer into individual small pot, not bigger than a two and one half inch pot, keeping in mind that the smaller the pot the quicker bloom buds will appear.

Now that summer is approaching, I immediately fill a nice clear white porcelain bread pan full of moist pre-washed and sterilized sand . . . set the small pots in the sand and once a week I fill the pan with water and give the plants a good drink. This makes the roots reach down for the moisture each day and keeps the plants sturdy and growing rapidly. I find that crowding the plants makes them grow faster. It seems as though each plant tries to grow faster than its brother or sister.

I withhold all plant foods for the next two or three months but about the middle of August or September first I begin to give them a little boost, either Atlas Fish Emulsion; Vitamin B-1; Plant-Tabs; Plant Marvel; Hyponex; or just about any of the plant foods which are advertised as being fine for African violets.

At this stage of cultivation I begin to call my friends and future spring show competitors,

asking them if they would like to take a jaunt to see some of our club members' violets (each one of us determined to find out the other fellow's secrets) — you know, kinda slip up on them and see what they are using to make their plants grow and look so different from ours. Oh, it's an exciting time with us, regular cloak and dagger stuff. We visit and talk and swap and buy leaves and plantlets and even large blooming plants.

Unless Mary or Bess or Marie and Corinne just volunteer to tell me I would not dare ask them what they use for potting soil or fertilizer. They are my friends, and I would not want them to tell a "fib" and leave out some ingredient.

Many of my violet friends often get to the three-D stage, of which I describe them as being **DISCOURAGED, DISGUSTED AND DOWN RIGHT THROUGH WITH GROWING** African violets. And I have never in all my years of growing and loving and sharing my violets, thought for a single moment of reaching the three-D stage, and I hope that you, gentle reader, won't ever give up your hobby of growing these delightful house plants. Just give them a little tender loving care and they will reward you with many happy hours and, as Father Sheen on television says, they can, "Make your Life Worth Living." end

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Best 100

Here again is your selection of the BEST 100 African violets for 1958 as compiled from your Choice Twenty-Five lists sent in to the Buyer's Guide Committee.

The Committee wishes to express its appreciation and gratitude to each member for the excellent response. Particularly do they wish to say, "Thank you" to the clubs who sent in their selections. Please keep in mind to always record the vote each plant receives so that the list will be an accurate count of the entire vote cast.

Again, many thanks to you all for such wonderful help.

Buyer's Guide Committee:

Quixie Nichols, Madison, Tennessee

Betty Stoehr, Greenwood, Indiana

Eleanor Rodda, Ossian, Indiana

Marjorie Buckner, Pleasant Hill, Missouri

Mary E. Suhr, Waterville, Ohio

-WHITE MADONNA	82	BERNICE	40	HERKIMER GIRL	31
-BUD'S STRIKE-ME-PINK	75	PINK IDEAL	40	BLUE POM	31
BLUE NOCTURNE	71	FANTASY	40	FR. SNOW PRINCE	31
-BLACK MAGIC	68	-T-V VALLINPINK	40	-PINK ARBUTUS	30
WHITE PRIDE SUPREME	68	VALOR	40	MISS NEW YORK	30
PINK CHEER	66	EMPEROR WILHELM	39	-AUTUMN	20
BOYCE EDENS	64	FRIVOLETTA	39	LACY LAVENDER	20
-PINK CLOUD	64	WHITE ORCHID	38	BLUE MOON	20
-SNOW PRINCE	61	APPLE BLOSSOM	37	-PINK CUSHION	20
-LORNA DOONE	61	CHASKA	37	PANSY	20
-NAVY BOUQUET	60	RUTHIE	37	RED BI-COLOR	20
-EVELYN JOHNSON	59	-VIOLET BEAUTY	37	BITTERSWEET	20
-OHIO BOUNTIFUL	58	PURPLE KNIGHT	36	BLUE STAR	20
-BLUE PEAK	57	-CYDONIA	36	-VELVET GIRL	20
DIXIE MOONBEAM	52	PURPLE MONARCH	35	IRIS	20
PINK MIRACLE	50	PINK STAR	35	-SAILOR GIRL	20
ROSE WING	50	-PINK CARESS	35	LAVENDER BEAUTY	20
WHITE PUFF	50	ANGEL LACE	35	RIPPLING GENEVA	20
HOLIDAY	50	CRUSADER	35	BLUSHING	20
BUD'S KIMBERLY	48	BLUE WARRIOR	35	-ORCHID SUNSET	20
-WHITE PRIDE	48	DROPS O' WINE	35	AFRICA	19
-RUFFLED QUEEN	48	SEA SPRITE	35	FASCINATION	19
BRIDESMAID	47	EDITH CAVELLE	34	WINE VELVET	19
DOUBLE PINK CAMELLIA	47	THUNDERHEAD	34	DOUBLE RASPBERRY	19
SANTA MARIA	47	-HOLLY	34	SEPTEMBER SONG	19
-PINK PUFF	46	-CARA MIA	34	PINK NEPTUNE	19
-AZURE BEAUTY	46	GEORGIA PEACH	34	DOUBLE UNCLE BOB	19
AIR WAVES	44	DOUBLE BLACK CHERRY	32	-PINK CELEBRITY	19
CAVALIER	43	PAINTED GIRL	32	JUNE BRIDE	19
PINK PETTICOATS	43	SUNRISE	32	PINK DELIGHT	19
MARY THOMPSON	43	DOUBLE INSPIRATION	32	CALUMET BEACON	19
-METEORE	42	SWIRLING PETTICOATS	31	-AMERICA	19
T-V CUT VELVET	41	DRESDEN DREAM	31		
FIRE DANCE	41	MINNESOTA	31		

FROM SEEDS TO BLOOMING PLANTS IN ELEVEN MONTHS

Ruth Post, Caledonia, Michigan

I like to sow my seeds in January, February or March. Plants from seeds which are started in January usually start blooming in November or December.

I use a five inch squatty pot, first put in peat moss and then about one or two inches of sand on top of the moss. I have the sand nice and level, then put the seeds in a teaspoon and sow them right on top of the sand. The pot is then set in a dish of warm water until it is wet on top. Then I put a piece of plastic or Saran Wrap on top, fastening it with a rubber band.

The pot is placed on top of the refrigerator in the kitchen, where it stays nice and warm, and at the end of two weeks I can see a lot of little green (hairs I call them) on top of the sand. When these start to sprout, I change the plastic to a piece that has the little holes in it (like a vegetable bag), as this gives a little air to the seedlings. I leave them on the refrigerator until there are quite a few green shoots; then I move the pot to the window seat in the dining room, placing it back from the window, and take the plastic off, which is replaced with a small fish bowl until all the seedlings have been transplanted.

I have some small, oblong, tinfoil tins which I use for the seedlings as soon as they have about four leaves. Holes are punched in the bottom, then some charcoal or Sponge-Rok is put in the bottom of the tin before it is filled with regular potting soil. To plant the seedlings, I put a hole in the soil, place the little seedling in, then firm the soil around it. After the plantlets are in the tin, I sprinkle the soil to moisten it, and then put the tin under the fluorescent lights. In the summer I keep one of these tins in a plastic bread box in the open north window of my back porch and leave the cover open just a bit on the bread box for air. The seedlings are left in these tins until they are crowded, then they are planted in small pots.

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I have very good luck with my seedlings. The pods are left on the plants until they are real dry, then they are picked and left in the cupboard for a few weeks before they are sown. I have never had any seed that did not come up. end

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I PLANTED, APOLLOS WATERED

Bess Dykeman, South Bend, Indiana

After Apostle Paul had established the church at Corinth, he had to leave. During his absence Apollos guided and cherished the infant church and it prospered to such an extent that Paul later was able to write, I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.

I often think of this quotation as I move about my basement violet room. I rejoice to see so much glowing color, for the secret of how to obtain this amount of bloom had eluded me. Until quite recently my Saintpaulias had resisted all my blandishments. Oh, they bloomed after a fashion, but they never seemed to reach that state of near-perfection exhibited by show plants.

Over a period of years and after an expenditure of much time, money and effort, I had built up a collection numbering close to two hundred. Only slowly had I learned to exercise restraint when selecting new varieties. There are now on the market a bewildering number of African violets. In this wealth of material, one can find good, bad, and indifferent kinds. Hybridizers are working overtime to give us Saintpaulias having better blooming qualities, clearer colors, more flowers to the stem, more double doubles, more pliable foliage, and more unusual color combinations. Many of our older varieties have never been surpassed, but, on the other hand, many of these newcomers are such consistently good bloomers that a collector is losing a lot of pleasure and satisfaction if she doesn't add a few of the best to her collection. Through careful selection of new, and an unsentimental disposal of unrewarding varieties, I had gotten together a group of African violets that I considered the cream of the crop.

But this screening was only the foundation. Unless I could provide an environment approaching the ideal, my plants still would not bloom really well. I like to picture the factors involved in growing Saintpaulias, in the form of a wheel. Each spoke of this wheel represents one element which contributes to a perfect whole. The wheel's potential strength depends on the strength of its spokes. My wheel looks like this, although yours

may have different spokes than mine. Taken together, they add up to success.

Three spokes in the wheel gave me the most trouble — humus, soil and light. Three questions continued to plague me: First, How could I get hold of a really superior potting soil? Second, Which humus would work best? And third, How much light was enough light to produce really good bloom?

At first my efforts were directed toward producing composts containing various kinds and amounts of organic matter. I tried straw, corn-cobs, oak leaves, sawdust, vegetable wastes, grass clippings, spent mushroom soil, peat moss and sphagnum moss, as well as cow and chicken manure.

I bought enough additives to last for years. On my shelves are enough brands of fertilizer to stock a small store. I hunted far and wide for limestone, superphosphate, rock phosphate, Hybrotite and Zonolite. I sent to California for four large boxes of Sponge-Rok. I tried FTE. I purchased bonemeal, blood meal, and soy bean meal, muriate of potash, Borden's 38, gypsum and salt petre. I located gravel and sand. I bought eighty pound bags of chicken grits and oyster shells and charcoal. On my supply shelves were Rootone, Transplantone, Active, Sulphur, Fermate, Isotex, Chlordane, VC-13, Nu-erth, and glaswick. Every new product recommended as being good for African violets found its way to Garden Lane. As soon as news reached me of the advent of a new book on African violets, I hastened to order it. I pored over these books, hoping to find a clear answer to my problem of scant bloom. True, I did see a definite improvement, but I still hadn't the large number of flowers on my plants that I knew I had a right to expect. Why should I be satisfied with ten or twelve flowers on a variety that should bear twenty-five or more?

LIGHT

The first of my questions to be answered was the one about light. Peggy Schulz's book "Growing Plants Under Artificial Light," and later, Mr. Sundt's article "Let There Be Light" opened a door to me. Experimenting with warm white and pink fluorescent tubes, I found that although I had believed I was supplying sufficient light, in reality I was far short of the ideal. Experiments and the results of those experiments have proved I wasn't giving the correct type of illumination. I had needed to supply more of the red rays of the color spectrum. Our violets are responding correctly to the changes my husband made in the light set-ups. There is more bloom. No longer do I have so many plants with crowded center leaves and too short petioles. Outer leaves have less tendency to hug the pots. Pink and



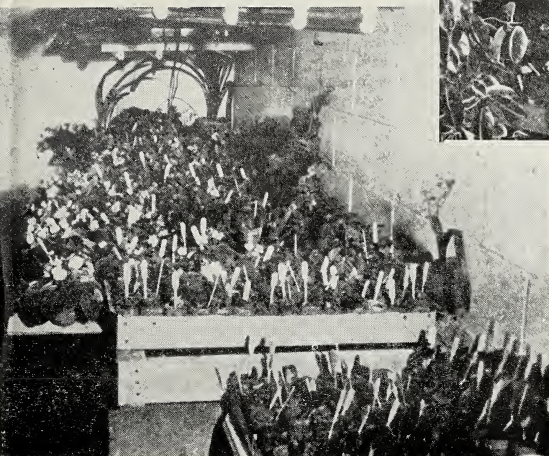
Right,

A wealth of bloom on strong, healthy plants gives great satisfaction.



Left,

Thrifty young plants and leaf cuttings illustrate the success of Mrs. Dyke-man's culture procedure.



white violets in particular react better to the pink tubes. I know no technical way to explain how this miracle came about, for miracle it seemed to me. I do know, however, that photosynthesis is more complete because of the better balanced lighting arrangements.

HUMUS

I had grown African violets in soils containing every conceivable type of humus, but had never been able to decide that any one was superior to all others. This humus problem was further complicated by the fact that no sooner had I chosen one as a possible best when I would find that the organic material I had used was no longer available.

I NEED POTTING SOIL

In early September of last year I found that almost all of my collection of Saintpaulias needed repotting. What should I do for soil? I'd need a large amount for that extensive a potting operation. I took an inventory of what I had on hand. I found seven or eight cans of composts and soils, no two of which were alike. I had one large container of heavy clay loam. By mixing the soils and composts together I had a number of potting soils, no two, however, being alike. But all these mixtures had some characteristics in common. Into each I had put clay loam, compost of some kind, and Sponge-Rok. I knew each would contain an abundance of nutrients because

the composts had been carefully made. I mustn't forget to add that every one of the soils in its final form had a texture that was pleasing to me. I don't need to be told that this was anything but a scientific approach, although the results did prove to be amazing, even startling.

By early October I had completed the repotting procedure. Early in November the first African violets I had repotted were beginning to bud heavily. But it was December before I realized I had struck pay dirt (no pun intended). There before my eyes was more bloom than I had ever had in my more than twenty years' experience. All during the winter the plants continued to flower profusely.

I FIND THE ANSWER

What had brought about this miracle? If I could find an answer to this question I could always maintain my plants in this happy state. Would a change from our former lighting arrangements make such a difference in results? Would the addition of clay loam to each recipe bring about such a response? No one particular organic material was responsible because all of the soils had produced plants with exceptional bloom-power. I have a few African violets which do not bloom heavily under any circumstances, but I keep them because of their outstanding beauty and huge flowers. Even these shy bloomers had performed in a surprising way. Where then did the answer lay? I thought of

my wheel with its twelve spokes, three of which had caused me so much trouble — humus, light, and a really good soil. How stupid I had been! Like a flash the answer came to me. Twelve spokes working together in a wheel! I had been trying to find separate answers to my three questions. Instead, I should have been trying to evaluate my findings in the sum total of all the approaches I had made simultaneously.

Humus, soil, light, water, humidity, fertilizers, yes, perhaps even the amount of clay loam added to the soils — all had played a part, and although it was accidental, all these factors had been “homogenized” at the same period of time. Each spoke had been placed, to the best of my knowledge and ability, into its place in the wheel with the result that I had never had such a strong wheel, never before such a wealth of bloom.

UNSEEN FORCES WORK FOR ME

When I first became interested in compost making I had read everything I could find on the subject. As I read any literature or informative material I jot down in a notebook items I may need to refer to if I run into difficulty. I have solved many a problem in this way. My notes on soil and soil making, on composts, and on humus in potting soils yielded the following statements: “Authorities such as John Coryell and Chas. E. Kellogg, state that soil suitable for growing African violets must contain clay and loam to give body and prevent sudden changes in temperature and growing conditions from causing harm to the plant. Clay allows basic exchange, a process whereby plant roots may select water and food from the soil and give back in exchange carbon dioxide which is toxic to the plant.” In an effort to simplify the explanation of basic exchange, I had once written a little story which I read to a newly organized African violet club. This story was based on an article written by John Coryell in the Saintpaulian. Would you care to read it?

COOPERATION

One bright September morning a thrifty looking African violet said to her roots, “Rooty, I’m getting to be a big girl now. It’s time I made some flower buds. I want to do it in a big way, so I’ll be needing some phosphorus. Can you help me out?”

The roots were in an excellent state of health. They just filled the little pot, being not yet potbound. They called up to the plant, “We’re more than willing to help you out. We’ve never had short rations of either potash or phosphorus while we were growing up. We’ll go to work immediately.”

The tiny roots were anchored in a loose textured, porous soil which contained some clay loam. “Good morning, Clay,” they whispered softly. “Did you hear Vi? She’s decided to begin flower production and needs phosphorus right away. What can you do to help us?”

“We can do plenty,” the clay answered, “because all of the tiny particles of which we are made are completely surrounded by a thin film of moisture. In this moisture, nicely dissolved, is phosphorus as well as potash or any other mineral Vi uses in smaller amounts. But remember we made a bargain. I give to you and you give to me.”

“You didn’t need to remind me. I’m as anxious as you are to keep that bargain. Here’s your carbon dioxide. I’m glad to get it out of my system before it poisons me. Are you ready?”

“Let ’er go,” the clay answered, and the trading spree was on, the roots’ burden of carbonate entering the pore spaces in the soil, while the wee roots absorbed the nutrient-water which surrounded the clay particles.

Then the roots called up to the plant, saying, “Here you are, Vi, come and get your phosphorus. Liquid diet as usual, eh? You see, I never forget that you must always drink your food.”

“Many thanks, Rooty,” Vi answered. “I’m so glad you can be selective and choose for me just the element I need. Now that I have my phosphorus I’ll get busy at that flower bud business.”

And busy she was for the next few weeks while bud initiation took place. With the help of an understanding mistress who supplied plenty of light and a slow, steady supply of nutrients to the soil, the violet soon set buds and shortly thereafter she burst into glorious bloom. A lovely sight she was indeed!

So, watered at the exact times when she needed moisture, and fed twice a month, the Saintpaulia in true story-book fashion lived happily ever after. In fact, so steadily did she blossom that her mistress composed a little poem in her honor.

A Happy Violet

A violet in a little pot
Said, “Mistress loves me well.
She feeds me and she waters me.
Oh boy, do I feel swell!
Beneath this light I live my life
In comfort most delicious.
The porous mix about my roots
Is soil she made nutritious.
I like the atmosphere I’m in,
The fan that’s for my pleasure.
The stones beneath my pot of clay
Give moisture in full measure.
I’ll bloom for her, I’ll glow for her,
I’ll really go to town.
Because she meets my every need
I’ll never let her down.”

Another page in my notebook read, “In addition to clay some sand, or its equivalent, should be used to allow the soil to become porous, and some organic matter to hold moisture and provide a well balanced supply of nutrients for the use of the plant. By far the most important function of organic matter, however, is its ability to furnish food for micro-organisms, without which

plants will not thrive. Organic matter may be added as peat or humus in any form. Gardeners should recognize the importance of this function of organic matter, as well as its ability to hold moisture. Soils with high populations of bacteria are generally more productive than those with low populations." As we undoubtedly know, soil bacteria feed on nitrogen and other nutrients in organic matter and soon multiply and build up an enormous population. The soil may actually be short of nitrogen at this time because it is tied up in the living bodies of the micro-organisms. Only after the peak is reached and the bacteria begin to die, are the nutrients freed and so released to the soil in a form the plant can assimilate.

Along with the other composts, I had made one using peat moss as the organic agent. This compost, as well as all the others, had given very satisfactory results. I decided to eliminate a lot of work and save both time and money by using peat moss exclusively as organic material. But at this point in my reasoning I needed help, for I wanted to be able to mix together at a moment's notice the ingredients making up my potting soil mixture. You see, I thought it should be permissible to use peat moss just as it came from the bale, coarsely sifted of course. I had no idea of the exact amount necessary to make a correctly balanced soil. The soil I use in my mixtures must be purchased, and the kind I prefer is a heavy clay loam which requires the addition of other ingredients before it is suitable for African violets.

Almost as though in answer to my particular problem, a new book appeared on the market. It was called *Gardening Indoors Under Lights*, and was written by Frederick and Jacqueline Kranz. This book contains much valuable information for indoor gardeners, but of special interest to me were the chapters giving an account of their search for a superior soil. They tried fifty-nine different mixtures before they found one which completely satisfied them. They kept accurate records of all results, noting carefully the leaf growth, the flowering and root development, as well as the general appearance of all plants grown. They wanted a loose-textured mixture which did not pack together, a soil which would retain sufficient moisture, and in which plants would grow well for a long time. The Kranz's had a twofold aim, "first, to find a soil mixture which would grow truly beautiful plants; second, to find a mixture in which they would grow as beautifully, yet which was composed of easily purchased materials".

Now this was exactly what I was seeking. There is a whole chapter in this book on African violets. Naturally the authors tried out their soil on their Saintpaulias, along with many, many other house plants. As a result of their many experiments they felt they had found a soil so well suited to the needs of house plants in general, and African violets in particular, that they unhesitatingly wrote in their book, "This

soil recipe produces a mixture which gives your plants the conditions they need; it will, in fact, make the scrawniest plant placed in it feel that it must have died and gone to heaven." Such fulsome praise persuaded me to give it a trial. As a result I have found a soil which shows great promise. It is well suited to young plants. I am amazed at the speed with which baby roots penetrate the soil. The plantlets which I first put into this soil look wonderfully healthy, and how they have grown! I now realize that in a compatible soil African violets will grow rapidly. All of these young plants are beginning to bud, and they are young indeed in point of time although they look almost mature. Growth is stocky, leaves are glossy, and roots are growing out of the hole at the bottom of the pot. Needless to say, I am simply delighted with the results of my trial of Kranz's soil mixture. Eventually I

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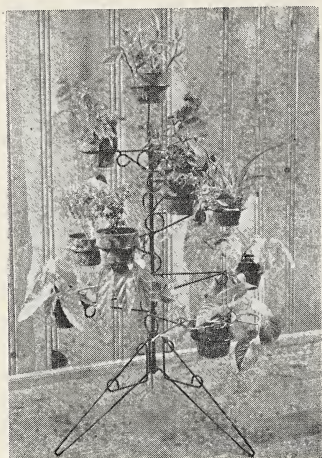
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Lightweight design with sturdy strength. Can be moved easily from window to window or room to room. To give plants full share of light and air, turn the arm instead of the plant! Provides variety of arrangements and permits turning plants toward you to water. Ten drip proof plastic brasstone pots included, for direct planting, or will hold clay pots up to 4" across top. Guaranteed quality materials and construction, with hard cure lacquer finish. 40" high by 24" wide.

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All the newest & finest varieties in African violets
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Across from the new Mercury Plant

WHAT'S NEW? Come and get choice varieties, plants, rooted cuttings, supplies at reasonable prices. No list or shipping on African Violets at present. NOW shipping postpaid, plastic pots as follows:

2 1/4"	25 for \$1.25
2 1/2"	25 for \$1.50
3" tubs	25 for \$1.75
3 1/2" pots	25 for \$2.00
White plastic labels	100 for \$1.00

The pots are mottled colors, and we will pack a variety when available, unless you specify all alike.

No COD'S Please.

LYKE'S AFRICAN VIOLETS

East Bethany, New York

Rt. 63 6 miles southwest of Batavia

want to get all of my African violets into this mixture, starting from a leaf as they suggest.

MY CONCLUSION

So, as I walk about my violet room, I see glowing color where once was little else except green leaves and rather scant flowering. How much of the credit for this increase in flower production is due to my own efforts? Actually, very little. When I first began growing African violets in the basement, the plants were mine. Whenever I talked or wrote about them I used the pronoun I. But after so much color appeared down there my husband began to take quite an interest in the project. Whenever a new Saint-paulia reached its prime and was at its peak flower production he would take his camera downstairs to get a photograph. "Dyke" wants two colored slides of each variety, one of the plant itself in full bloom and another slide showing a close-up of an individual blossom. Incidentally, he's having his troubles too for he is still an amateur and flowers indoors in color are not easy subjects. Colors must be accurate and sometimes they refuse to conform to the real article. But we are surely having a lot of fun and slowly building up our collection of color slides.

I am learning to watch my language now, whenever I discuss African violets, for often I can no longer use the pronoun I. Without Dyke's help I could not have had fluorescent light setups. Although not polished looking, they are entirely satisfactory. I assure you that our violets do not care in the least that the light they receive wasn't installed by a professional. We are not completely satisfied with the performance of every plant, of course, but we are often rewarded by seeing here and there plants which approach that degree of perfection one expects in plants of show quality. Are you familiar with the poem which ends like this?

"... and yet the fool

Contends that God is not —

Not God! in gardens! when the eve is cool?

Nay, but I have a sign:

'Tis very sure God walks in mine."

Thomas Edward Brown

So, while I may put down the leaves and look after the physical welfare of our African violets, Dyke, my Apollos, obligingly keeps our equipment in smooth running order. But I am aware now that any success that is mine is the result of three miracles which prove that God does walk in gardens. Basic exchange, photosynthesis and soil bacteria are the real factors which have led to a solution of my three questions, ending my search for a clear answer to my problem of scant bloom. I do not see these miracles as they take place, but I can see the happy, satisfying results they produce. Our thrifty plants in glowing color are evidence of God's presence in our indoor garden. So, like Paul, I am able to write, I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. end

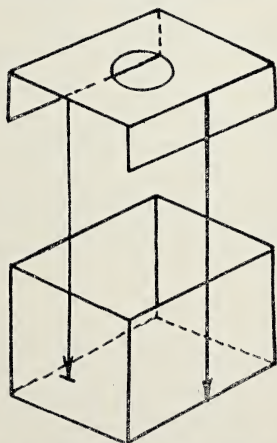
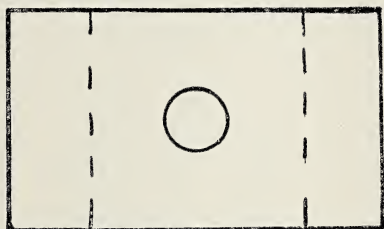
PACKING PLANTS FOR TRANSPORTATION TO A SHOW

Gertrude Bush, Muncie, Kansas

A question that is asked me many, many times is, "How do you pack your large plants for transportation to shows so that they arrive in such perfect condition?" It is really very simple and easy but takes considerable time and effort preparing the boxes.

We use cardboard boxes which can be obtained at grocery, hardware and drug stores. Select a box for each specific plant. One that is sufficiently large to accommodate the leaf spread without touching at any point. Likewise it should be tall enough that the leaves or blossoms do not touch the lid and become bruised by friction from traveling.

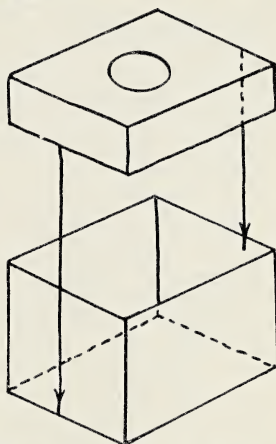
A support to hold the pot and plant in place is made by using a slightly smaller box cut down to three or four inches in height. Center a circle in this box to correspond with the size pot the plant is growing in. Slip this inside the first box. See drawing.



If one needs a number of these boxes it is sometimes difficult to secure enough boxes just the right size for the above mentioned method.

Drawings by Louis R. Bush

The same results can be had by selecting your main box then taking a piece of cardboard the same width as the box but six or seven inches longer. With a pencil and ruler measure back three or three and one half inches from each end and with a sharp knife cut way through the cardboard. Cut center hole for pot, break back ends on cut lines, slip into box and again you have a support for your pot and plant. It is held secure and cannot slip, slide or tip over. See drawing.



Over this brace I usually place a sheet or two of crushed tissue paper to act as a cushion for the foliage to rest on. Carefully place plant in the box, pot in hole and foliage spread out naturally.

It is absolutely necessary that the box have a cover to protect the plant from weather conditions and also so that the boxes may be stacked. If your box does not have a lid attached, you may cover the box with newspapers and tape in place. But of course a piece of cardboard must be placed between boxes when stacking them.

Small plants may be carried in this manner equally as well as large show plants.

This method of packing has worked out very satisfactorily for me. After six hundred miles of traveling to Cincinnati last spring my plants arrived in excellent condition, without a broken or damaged leaf.

I hope this will help some of the folks who are having trouble getting their plants to the shows. end

COLUMNNEA - AFRICAN VIOLET COUSINS

Mrs. Leo Spengler, Orlando, Florida



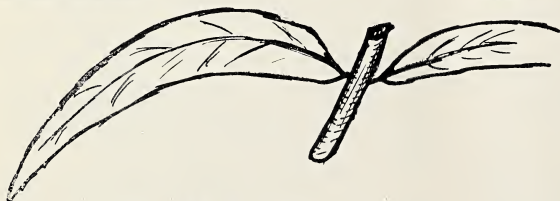
C. gloriosa.

Columnnea gloriosa var. *purpurea* and *Columnnea gloriosa* var. *splendens* have the same leaf form, but while *splendens* has a green leaf, var. *purpurea* has a purplish colored leaf covered with red brown hairs and flowers of a fiery red. This is a striking variety.



C. hirta.

Columnnea hirta comes from Costa Rica. It has long, narrow, satiny leaves covered with reddish hairs. The flowers are vermillion; and it is a prolific bloomer.



C. Schiedeana.

Yes, columnnea are African violet cousins, but I have not been heard from very much until the last several years. They can stand about as much cold as African violets, but their buds will drop if the weather gets too cold for them. They are mostly trailers, but a few are upright climbers. The trailing varieties make wonderful basket plants. Many of the upright varieties grow aerial roots from the stock and would climb on totem poles. I imagine that in their native habitat they climb trees. Columnneas are native to tropical America, Costa Rica, Brazil, West Indies and Mexico.

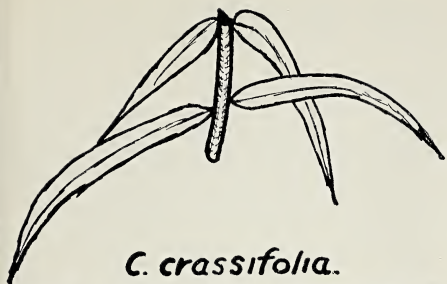
The flowers are long and tubular like some of the other Gesneriads. The colors are varied. A basket of vining columnneas makes a beautiful and showy display in a sunny window or greenhouse. They are very easily grown — the cuttings root easily in damp sphagnum moss, and they will even grow in sphagnum moss. The best potting mixture is a loose porous African violet soil mixed equally with cedar chips or any other brand of orchid potting chips. end



C. tulae 'Flava'.

Columnnea tulae 'Flava' is a native of the West Indies. It has soft green leaves and yellow flowers. It is a very thrifty bloomer, and the flowers are followed by pure white, round seed pods.

Columnnea Schiedeana has long slender leaves and orange and brown flowers. Its native home is Mexico.



C. crassifolia.

Columnnea crassifolia has long, slender leaves. It is an upright climber.



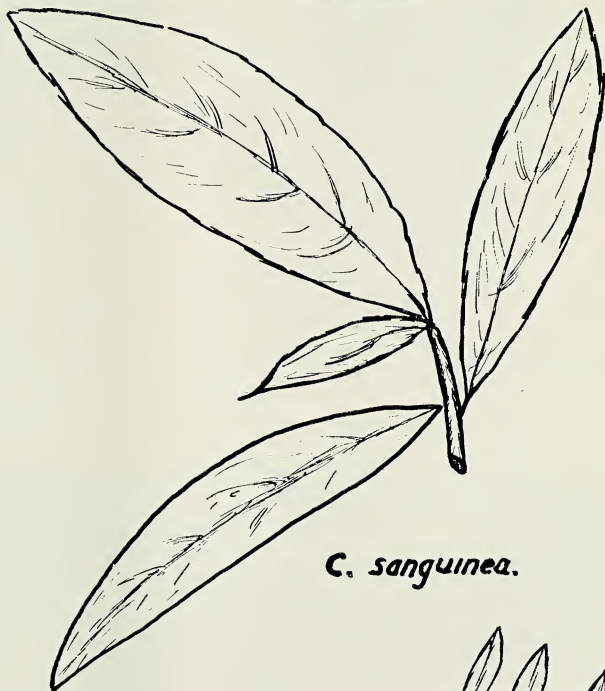
C. Allenii.

Columnnea Allenii has beautiful glossy, rather roundish leaves and red flowers.



C. microphylla.

Columnnea microphylla has very tiny, fern like leaves, and orange-scarlet flowers.



C. sanguinea.



C. arguta.

Columnnea arguta has most interesting leaves, beautifully pointed, and large red flowers.

Columnnea sanguinea is a pot plant, as it grows upright and has very large, opposite, hairy, green leaves with large red splotches under the leaves. The flowers are yellow. This one grows very large.

Columnnea linearis is a bushy, rather slow grower, for me. The leaves are rather long and glossy and the flowers are a lovely pink.



C. linearis.

IN MY VIOLET ROOM

Marjorie Buckner, Pleasant Hill, Missouri

What greater pleasure can be found than the pleasure of seeing the expressions of astonishment and joy on the faces of the visitors to my violet room? Although many folk have been there before and know what to expect, their faces light up with appreciation when they are ushered down the basement stairs and into my violet room. It is with a great sense of pride that I show both old and new visitors my beautiful collection of African violets and see them delightedly depart with a few of the lovely plants for their own.

My violet room in the basement of our home was formerly my son's model train room when he was a small boy. During his high-school years he remodeled one end of this room into a dark-room and projection booth for his hobby of photography. This dark-room, with double sink, hot and cold water and storage cabinets, has proved to be an excellent potting room, and by replacing the train tables with two-tier tables and adding lights, my violet room is complete.

The walls of the room are painted a very light aqua and the ceiling is white, providing good light reflection and enabling the use of ordinary two-tube forty watt (daylight and cool white mixed) fluorescent strips without reflectors.

The tables on which the violets are grown are mounted on ball-bearing wheels, that they may be moved away from the wall when so desired.

They are painted white and the upper level of each table is covered with clear plastic to prevent any spilled water from dripping through onto the lights and violets on the lower level. All the plants on the upper tiers are large plants; since the lights, which hang from the ceiling, can be higher than those on the lower tiers. Each of these plants is in its individual watering saucer and its distance from the lights is regulated according to the best response shown by each plant. Certain varieties, I find, can stand, in fact require, much more light than do other varieties; so those needing more light are raised by the use of a box or can to perhaps six inches below the light. Thus the distance from plants to lights varies from six inches to fourteen inches.

On the lower tier of the tables are galvanized tin trays to facilitate watering. These trays are three inches deep, two to three feet wide and in length extend across the width of the table plus an inch or two. This extra length extends beyond the width of the table on the front side and in this space in each tray is a small opening into which has been soldered a short piece of copper tubing. This extends down from the bottom of the tray and to it is attached a two foot length of rubber tubing. In each tray is placed a layer of marble chips (chicken grits, hen size, in case you are interested) which have previously been thoroughly washed, then allowed to stand in a solution of VC-13 for twelve hours and again rinsed with clear water.

Mrs. Buckner in her violet room — overwatering is avoided by draining the trays through rubber hoses.



The small plants are placed on this layer of marble chips and remain there until sometimes the blossoms nearly touch the lights. They grow extremely fast in these trays and attain a perfectly luscious color, both in foliage and blossoms, perhaps because of their nearness to the lights and the humidity created by the damp chips on which the pots stand. When it is time to water, two loose knots are tied in each rubber tube and the trays flooded with warm water. When the plants are completely soaked (never longer than twelve hours) the knots are untied and the water allowed to drain away. Rewatering takes place only when the plants, not the marble chips, show that they are dry. In this way overwatering is avoided.

Great care is taken to be sure no plants, which might be diseased in any manner, are placed in these trays. Any new plants which I buy or which are sent to me for testing for the Buyer's Guide Committee are kept in a separate room upstairs away from the violets in the violet room and also away from other plants and violets in our small greenhouse. When I feel sure these plants are free from disease they are taken into the violet room; but even then are kept in individual watering saucers until I have had them for at least nine months.

I have never sprayed my plants with insecticide and never expect to do so, for we have two very dearly beloved cats, Mona Lisa and her offspring, Calico; and while they have never yet nibbled the violet leaves, I am sure if anything should happen to them through my use of a poison I would never like violets again. I have used sodium selenate when it became necessary once in the past, and, by isolating those few plants, saved the varieties. However, I am interested mostly in growing show plants, so feel that they must be free from disease from the beginning in order to assure success.

The temperature in my violet room averages about seventy-two degrees in winter and eighty degrees in summer. The air is kept in circulation by the use of the fan in our forced air furnace both summer and winter, and an additional fan on very warm summer days. A north window is kept open except on winter nights.

The humidity seldom falls below forty percent, so I have no trouble with falling blossoms.

My soil mixture is two parts Berry's Beauty Blossom, which has the soil conditioner, Krilium, added, and one part fine peat moss.

I feed twice each month, with the exception of the summer months, usually with Plant Marvel but occasionally with Hyponex and Stim-U-Plant.

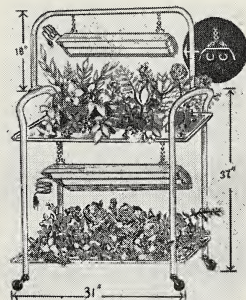
An interesting part of my violet growing is a little hybridizing which my husband and I enjoy. We cannot go into this very extensively, since it requires a good deal of space, but take pleasure in watching the results of our cross pollinations. Ordinary plastic bread boxes are used for growing the small seedlings, each group

graduating from one box to another, as they are transplanted, until they are too large for the boxes and ready to be placed in pots.

I never cease to be amazed at the small amount of time and care required to grow beautiful plants. Many times other duties call me and the violets must be neglected; but they always respond to the attention I am able to give them and I often wonder what they would do if they were really pampered.

Thus grow the violets "In My Violet Room." end

"AREALITE" FLOWER CART with fluorescent light fixtures



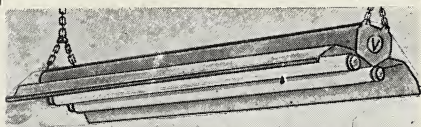
Aluminum finish rust resistant Cart for your AFRICAN VIOLET PLANTS, with adjustable FLUORESCENT LIGHTS.

Cart is on casters, can easily be rolled from room to room, attractive enough for one's living room; two spacious (12" x 31") aluminum no drip rolled edge trays 20 1/2" apart to allow for proper adjustment of lights above plants.

Each fluorescent light fixture is complete with cord, plug, pull switch, chain and two — 20 Watt 24" long fluorescent tubes producing from 100 to 180 foot candles, according to adjustment of chain.

Cart (as shown here) with two fluorescent light fixtures\$42.50*

Cart with two trays and one lower fluorescent light fixture\$30.00*



*\$12.50

4 ft. long fixture with two — 40 Watt bulbs, switch, 5 ft. cord and plug.
Above fixture available with

four — 40 Watt bulbs\$22.50*
If two sockets for 25 Watt incandescent bulbs are desired, (these are installed between the two fluorescent bulbs) add \$3.00.

All Prices F. O. B. Detroit, Michigan
*Michigan residents subject to 3% Sales Tax.

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Some of Mr. Cole's favourite varieties

GROWING AFRICAN VIOLETS FROM SEEDS IN NEW ZEALAND

Frederick W. Cole, Auckland, New Zealand

Our Auckland climate is very mild and seldom exceeds eighty degrees in the summer — the lowest in the winter is usually about fifty-five degrees. On occasions it may drop to forty-five at night. Quite often, following a cold night, the temperature next day may rise to seventy-five degrees. As usual, winter always has many rainy and sunless days and I have made provision for these conditions by using a fluorescent natural light fitting.

Most of my African violet seed and leaves have been secured from growers in America and England, and I seem to have about eighty-five percent success with both. I use plastic containers for planting the seed — size twelve inches by eight inches by five inch depth. After thoroughly soaking the vermiculite, I place about

two inches of this in the bottom of the container, then I cover the vermiculite with a mixture of coarse river sand, oak leaf mould and finely cut up moss. I press this firmly, then I mix a little dried blood with the seed before planting and scatter it over the surface. A small copper funnel is placed in the centre of the container, reaching to the bottom. This enables the water to be added to keep the vermiculite moist without interfering with the surface. I then put a piece of glass over the container, leaving a little space for air. The container is then put in a hot box which is electrically heated and thermostatically controlled at a temperature of sixty-two degrees.

As soon as the plantlets have four leaves they are transplanted into boxes with specially prepared soil, and when they are nice sturdy plants they are moved to four inch pots.

This is the mixture I use for the boxes and pots: forty-five percent leaf mould (semi-decayed oak leaves are best), thirty percent coarse river sand, twenty-five percent vermiculite, and the balance is made up of manures — one cup of blood and bone, one-half cup of superphosphate and one-half cup of dried blood. If sheep or cow manure is available, this is very good as it is light. All these materials are passed through a small mesh sieve and thoroughly mixed. This should be sufficient for about twenty-five four inch pots. No more feeding is required until the plant is repotted or divided.

I have planted a number of African violets on the fibre around my orchids in baskets hanging overhead and they have grown to quite a large size. I plant them there to give me an indication of the moisture content in the basket. When the African violet plants commence to wilt I know that the orchid plant requires water.

I have two glass houses, one is heated, thermostatically controlled at a temperature of sixty-two degrees. My seedlings and young plants are kept in this house and when showing flower spikes I move them to an unheated glass house. I have plants in flower all the year around, and it is very gratifying to me to see them in flower all the winter.

My favourites are: Double Pink Cloud, Pink Puff, Ohio Bountiful, Sparkling Burgundy, Nottingham Pioneer, Double Edith Cavell, White Orchid, Fringed Snow Prince, Purple Knight, Bernice, Double Painted Girl, Double and Single Polar Ice, Blue Peak, Flamingo, Pink Achievement, Laura, Rose Wing, Miss New York, White Madonna, Georgia Peach, and a few of my own seedlings. end

CHOICE MIXTURE

200 ORNU VIOLET SEEDS

\$1.00 PKG. POSTPAID.

Includes special instruction booklet and list of our famous originations. Come browse in our African Violet House. 100's of varieties. Open daily, except Thursday, 9-5.

Just 45 min.
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Francisco. 4
miles east of
Tunnel on
Walnut Creek
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(Hwy. 24).
Turn South at
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Valley.



AFRICAN VIOLETS

OLD and NEW

Send Stamp for List

MARY O. BLACKBURN

404 Montlieu Ave.

Highpoint, N. C.

JOYE'S PET PEEVES

Joye Hardisty, Corning, Iowa

I wish Emily would get out a book on "Good Manners for Violet Visitors!" They come into homes crowded with plants, refuse to remove their bulky coats, and clutch their overgrown handbags as though they contained their life savings! They sail down the narrow aisles, their wide sleeves and swinging handbags, which are the size of young suitcases, simply mowing a swathe among the delicate plants!

And why bring children to race untrammelled throughout the place? I have shelves of priceless bisque which several times has simply rattled! How can a violet grower keep her mind, trying to answer all questions, find all elusive varieties, etc., when she is wondering how much damage is being done?

One day a visitor, her daughter and three children came, looked at every plant I had, decided a double white plant at thirty-five cents was too small, and said they might come back and get it after it had grown larger. In the meantime, the children, who were of an age that they could have been safely left in the car, simply romped all over the house and investigated everything.

I have two windows of plants in my small kitchen. One day, four able-bodied women, one child and a bored man all crowded in. Only one of the women was interested, and she was "just looking."

There is much to be said for mail order business!

AFRICAN VIOLETS

Fresh cut leaves by mail. Write for list, 300 varieties plants at house. Evenings week days; after 1:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

VELMA KNOWLTON

715 W. Housatonic Street Pittsfield, Mass.

AFRICAN VIOLETS

1. Small husky plants.
2. Freshly cut leaves.
3. Some rooted leaves.

Stamp for list

RUBY BICE

5316 61st St.

Kenosha, Wisconsin

A BIG SURPRISE

Bess Greeley, Chicago, Illinois

I have grown African violets in nearly every way possible, even to crossing and watching my seed pod grow, then watching the seedlings grow into large plants but these were nothing special.

On one of my visits to Rosa Peters, I bought her Extol violet. It is one that had been treated with Colchicine and the leaves were very brittle. I saved the blossoms, as she did, and when they were dry I packed them in an air tight vial for future use. I was disappointed that I could not take the plant to Wisconsin, particularly as I had tried many times to root the leaves and had had no success, but I had the dried pollen of the blossoms and took that.

Using one of my old favorites which is always in bloom, I took the dried pollen from the vial and crossed it on Taffeta to see what I would get. It wasn't long before a huge seed pod developed. After this seed pod was dry, it was nearly two months before I planted it in sifted vermiculite which had been dampened with B-1 water for twenty-four hours. In just a short time the seeds showed green and grew faster than any I had ever planted. After six weeks I took out the largest seedlings and planted them in Golden Earth in thimble pots.

To my surprise, when I could see what I was getting, I found that of all that came up there were five with the plain leaf (boy) and thirty-one with the girl type leaf. I was under the impression that ordinarily there are more with plain type leaves from any cross, but for me it was just the opposite. The plants are getting so large and I am hoping I will have something that is different, due to their fast growth. The mulberry red of Extol and the pale lavender tints of Taffeta should give me something extra nice.

end

AFRICAN VIOLETS

Leaves Plants Rooted Cuttings
Many varieties to choose from Old and New
Window grown and Fluorescent lights
Write for list.

MRS. COURT JOHNSTON
Carrollton, Illinois

— SECOND REVISED EDITION —
LAVENDER COVER
"AFRICAN VIOLET HANDBOOK FOR
EXHIBITORS AND JUDGES"

Information on show plants, show procedure, color classes, judges and judging, African violet arrangements. Scale of points for judging specimens, arrangements, etc. \$1.00 PER COPY

RUTH G. CAREY

3900 GARDEN DRIVE KNOXVILLE 18, TENN.

Achimene ehrenbergii. This plant has had other names, and on the continent of Europe it was advertised as a hybrid of the *Scheerias*. It comes from Mexico, and as late as 1951 it was named in the English Dictionary of Gardening as *A. scheeria*. Now it rests under the name of *A. ehrenbergii* and is sometimes called the woolly achimene. It is different from other achimenes. The plant is very woolly, which gives it a whitish appearance. My plant grew in several whorls, with a bloom on each one. It grows very compact, and the large bluish-purple blooms are funnel shaped and lovely. This is the first blooming of mine, and now I see several scaly rhizomes on the plant above the soil. As yet I do not know what is in the soil nor how long a resting period it has, if it has one. It is a plant worth growing.



THE LOVELY GESNERIADS

Catherine B. Shepherd, Arlington, Virginia

Now that Dr. Moore's book, *African Violets, Gloxinias, and Their Relatives*, has been released, more people will be apt to grow Gesneriads and have the pleasure of their beauty. It seems a pity that such beauty should be hidden because not many of them are grown.

I began to grow them in 1950. After seeing a gloxinia in bloom I wanted some, and then other plants came along and the same thing happened. I have grown most of them from seeds, also the hard way, through the trial and error method, as at that time very little information could be found. In growing them, so much can be learned that is never found in any books. Thanks to the few who grow them, more information now is available.

Not knowing much about them, I used a third of loam, peat and sand, and as time went on I varied it a little. Some plants like more peat and others not so much. The epiphytes need a little different mix, but on the whole they are very easy to grow.

Many growers of Saintpaulias are now growing episcias with their lovely foliage, and new ones are always coming along. I would not like to be without a few of them. I have never been

able to understand why the other relatives have not been grown along with Saintpaulias.

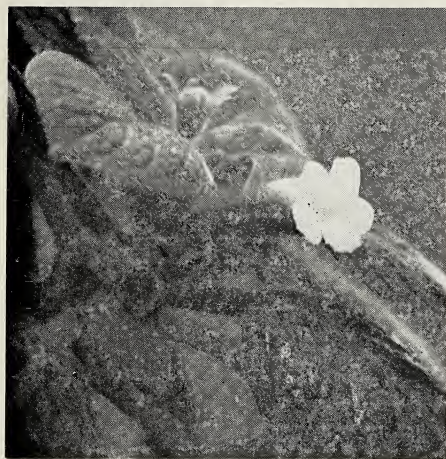
During 1953 some corms were sent to me indirectly from a private collection in England. I am just beginning to get their correct names, which is through the interest of the few who grow them. *R. cardinalis* was the first one to bloom, and *maculata* is now growing side by side with *Wilson's perennis*.

Then again, much time has been wasted by growing seeds that have been named incorrectly. I grew *Ramondas* for ten months and they turned out to be Saintpaulias. *Didymocarpus* turned out to be ferns, and *Alloplectus schlimii* and *tussacias* were *chrysothemis*. *R. leucotricha* even now is named *bulbosa*. There will be much changing of names before they get straightened out.

The *episcia* from the Canal Zone which has a yellow bloom was named *Tropical Topaz* by Mrs. Leo Spengler of Florida. I found the cutting from her gave a deeper color than those I received from a different section. This has the clear green foliage similar to *E. viridifolia*, and I have one with exactly the same foliage which has red blooms. Two plants from the Canal Zone that came to me as *columnneas* were a *codonanthe* and a *Columnnea glabra*. I had the

latter classified this summer at the Smithsonian Institute. The codonanthe I am told is not the same as *C. crassifolia*. These two plants came during August and every leaf fell off both. They stood like that all through the winter, and I was very surprised during March when they began to grow. That made me think perhaps others took a long rest; and when *Hypocyrtia nummularia* died down this month I remembered what I had read once, that it rested from November until March. That still remains to be seen.

It takes time to get acquainted with the habits of these plants. I grew a *cyrtandra* and it grew very tall and needed no support. The blooms were at the head of the plant and were numerous. It reminded me of a weed so I stood it outside. It was out all winter and when I emptied the pot the following spring the roots were still alive, but I did not want to keep it. That plant is suitable only for Botanical Gardens, like several of these plants are.



Right —

Episcia punctata, when I first got it, was called *Drymonia mollis*. It is a woody type of plant and is not as popular as some of the others. Flowers come in the leaf-axils and are single. Mine does not bloom as often as the others, and has a habit of dropping many leaves, but it keeps on growing. There are many dots inside the bloom. It is a straggly plant and a sparse bloomer.

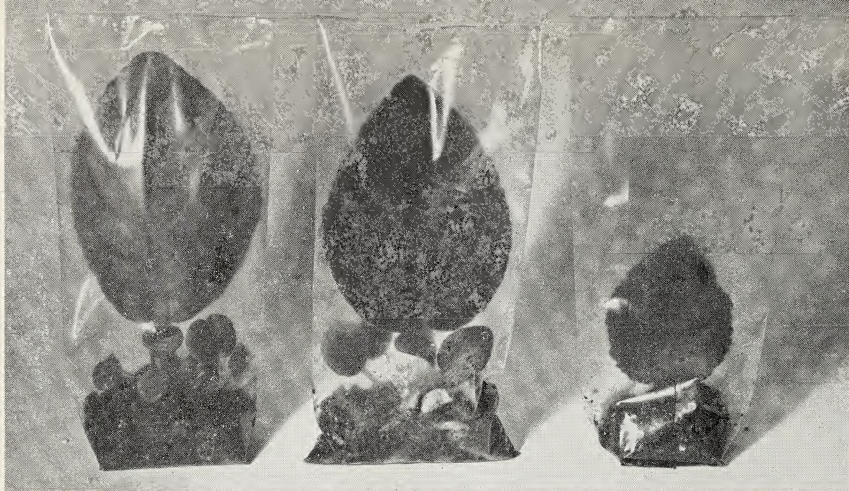
The columnneas give nice blooms, but none will bloom as well as the *Saintpaulias* which make them the most popular of these plants. The *achimenes* give lots of blooms and also give many corms. Several like it much cooler than others. Those are the things you will find out as you grow them. Interest is growing fast and these plants seem to have a future. Now the *X Gloxineras* are coming along, there is no telling where they will reach. There are many more I have not mentioned, especially the *smithianthas* with their gorgeous foliage and nodding blooms, and the *streptocarpus*, and the subgenus *streptocarpella* including *kirkii*, *nobilis*, *saxorum* and others, which are all worth growing.

At the present time I am using tan bark and find it very agreeable for the *Gesneriads*. Let's hope these plants will find a place along with the *Saintpaulias*. end

Left —

Episcia "Tropical Topaz", the yellow-flowered plant, is very new here. I received one in 1955, and, after it bloomed, I lost it. I traded plants with Mrs. Figgee in 1956 and procured another one. This one has a lighter shade of bloom than the first one I had. They came from different parts of the Canal Zone. It still has not been decided if this plant is a distinct specie or from *E. cupreata*. It is a very attractive plant.





Left: Leaf of variety Pink Rocket; Centre: Leaf of *S. ionantha*; Right: Leaf of Ruffled Treasure.
Photo courtesy of Gardeners Chronicle Gardening Illustrated.

ROOTING CUTTINGS IN POLYTHENE BAGS

C. O. Pringle, London, England

Reprinted with permission from the Gardeners Chronicle, England.

Polythene is now invading the garden as it has invaded the home in recent years, and gardeners may wonder how far they can safely go in reducing drainage and ventilation by wrapping pots and seed-boxes in sheets and bags of this material.

So far as experience in rooting leaf-cuttings of African violet (*Saintpaulia*), gloxinia and *Peperomia sandersii* goes, the answer appears to be at variance with long-established rules. The leaves can be sealed in bags which also act as containers for the soil and can be left unopened until they have not only rooted but have grown plantlets to a size suitable for transfer to individual pots. Beyond this stage, growth appears to be retarded under sealed-up conditions and it is probable that evaporation of moisture from the leaves becomes an important feature of the process of growth after the initial period.

The size of bag depends on the type of cutting but for the leaves mentioned bags three inches wide by seven inches long are suitable. These are not readily available commercially and have been made by sealing off lengths of lay-flat polythene tubing of one hundred fifty gauge. With the expenditure of a little extra patience they can be gusseted so that, when opened, they have a square base resembling that of a one-fourth pound bag in which tea is sold. This gives more room for the developing plantlets and, no doubt, such bags will eventually be available on the market for retail sale.

Sealing is quite easy: The edges to be sealed together are held so that they project about one-sixteenth of an inch beyond the edges of two metal strips, one above and one below the poly-

thene; the projection is heated with the flame of a match and the two sheets immediately melt and join.

John Innes Seed Compost passed through a one-eighth inch sieve has been found satisfactory as a rooting medium. In a slightly moist condition it is poured into the bag to a depth of about one inch and then watered until as damp as if it had been immersed in water in a pot and drained off in the normal way. The leaf is pushed in until the end of the stem is just held in the compost and the top of the bag is sealed.

SQUARE-ENDED BAGS

Square-ended bags will sit on a bench or shelf. If space has to be saved or if ordinary bags are used a small clip can be used to grip the top of the bag (and show an identification label) and the bags can be hung on a wire or cord. There is a variety of price-label clip with a hook which is ideal for this purpose.

African violet leaves, with which most trials have been carried out, have usually a good root-system in three to four weeks, and the plantlets appear in six to eight weeks, according to temperature. In about another four weeks the plantlets should be ready for separation from the leaf. During this time no attention is needed, so far as watering or humidity is concerned, and although moisture on the inside of the bag is in contact with the leaf no harm results unless the leaf was damaged before planting. Even a broken leaf will survive, however, if the wounds have been allowed to dry before it is used.

The bags can be used again if opened by cutting across the top, the leaf and its ball of soil

being pulled upwards. It is often more convenient, however, to cut the bag off at soil-level to avoid damage to the plantlets.

So many different materials have been recommended for rooting African violet leaves that it is natural to suspect some common factor among them. This is probably the ability to hold a supply of moisture between periodical bouts of watering. Leaves have been tried in polythene bags containing only a few drops of water, both with the stem in the water and suspended slightly above it.

ROOTED SATISFACTORILY

These leaves have rooted satisfactorily and have even formed clusters of plantlets. The plantlets, however, need more nourishment than water can provide and, therefore, if water is used alone or in an inert medium such as sand or vermiculite it is essential to transfer the leaf to soil when roots have formed. The use of compost initially avoids this extra work.

Many failures to root African violet leaf cuttings are due to allowing the soil to become dry at some time after the roots have started to grow. When this happens the roots seem to recover only slowly, if at all, although the process may re-start. The use of sealed bags eliminates this risk and it may well be that even on a larger scale than the present trials the reduction of labour for watering and cleaning pots or seed-boxes will outweigh the slight extra work involved in planting cuttings individually and sealing the bags.

There is little doubt that the method can be applied to many hardwood and softwood cuttings for some of which the semi-enclosed plastic box method has already proved successful. end

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Virgil A. Winter, Willows, California

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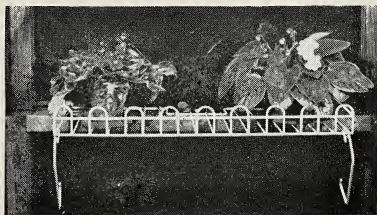
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WHAT THE AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE MEANS TO ME

Dora Maud Aldridge, Panama City, Florida

When I look back a few years and remember how long I grew African violets with very few blooms — just a few leaves, and those sick looking — then I realize what it has meant to me to be a member of the African Violet Society of America and to receive this wonderful magazine.

Violets had a very special place in my home, in a north window, for nearly five years before I became a member of the African Violet Society of Bay County, and also a member of the National Society. When we formed this club we did not form it as a social club but as a study club, for we were all interested in learning more about violets. We have had programs demonstrating the proper way to repot, remove suckers, groom plants, sterilize pots, improve humidity conditions, and many other helpful ideas.

Before we began this study, I believe my plants were starving to death. They were kept on the dry side for fear they would rot, and the house was dry. I soon found that the north window did not give enough light in the winter months.

Now I am so proud of my plants that every time someone comes to see me I have to say, "Come out on the porch and see my violets." I started several years ago to work on those eight or ten plants, and, since then, each time I see a new variety I just must try that one too. Now I have about two hundred and fifty varieties. I am never without bloom. In the hottest summer months my African violets bloom very little, but as soon as the weather improves they start blooming again.

The bug is about to get my husband, for he has built me three long redwood tables on the porch, and has installed fluorescent lights under one which did not receive the proper light. He pretends not to notice them, but occasionally I catch him showing them to a friend who may come by. My son even helps me check my list to see how many I have. When I went away on a visit several years ago, they planned to care for the violets. They knew that I had used a watering can with a long spout; they looked everywhere and couldn't find the watering pot; so my son came in with his water pistol and that is what the violets were watered with!

This magazine has had so many wonderful articles that are very good reference material. Lately we have been trying to find out more about fertilizer. You often read articles that make you want to begin experiments for your own information. This past year members of our club have experimented with fertilizers. There

are so many on the market and we did not know which was the best. We chose four that most of the group had been using and took four plants of the same size and variety and placed a label on each name tab showing which fertilizer each plant was to receive. They were watered with this liquid fertilizer, sometimes every two weeks and sometimes every month. Now after a year's experiment I find that one has poor texture and light colored leaves, another has green enough leaves but they seem to cup or draw, the third is almost as good as the fourth, but the mixture used on this one seems to give us all the blooms we need, good smooth leaves, green and healthy looking. We know now which of the four we tried will do the best job; and there are many more we can experiment with.

Now that I know how to get good blooms and have nice large plants, I still am not satisfied. I can see a chance for improvement and believe that this will be obtained by using Nature's Way. The articles written by Marie Dannemiller have been very interesting. Lately I have met a very interesting person, Dorothy Brackin, through our love of African violets. Her letters to me about Nature's Way or the Organic Mix have been very helpful. After all that I have read and all that I have heard, I still find that no two people have used the same formula, so that may mean that in different localities the formula should vary. My next step will be to do a little experimenting myself. I have three formulas curing now, and when they are ready I shall use four plants of the same size and variety, and use each of these formulas. The fourth plant will have the regular soil I have always used.

Why don't you try an experiment? You will get lots of help from reading the magazine. If it had not been for this magazine, I have no idea where I would have tried to find all this information for my own experiment. When I have any extra time I get out my magazine and read up on the subject I am most interested in at the time. I go back several years and read all I can find. Just can't help but wonder what was in those magazines before I became a member. This hobby has become rather expensive, and I am selling a few plants just so I can buy some more.

Do hope someone will write a good, clear, down-to-earth article on all types of soil sterilization. It is a little confusing to me now, for some say sterilize soil in the oven for two or three hours at a high temperature and others say only twenty minutes at one hundred and ninety degrees. When it is baked at a high temperature for so long, I am sure it must be large quantities

which take such a long time for the soil to get hot through. I understand that if the soil is heated for over twenty minutes at one hundred and ninety degrees it will ruin all of the mineral elements in the soil. If it is over-baked, will the mineral elements come back into the soil, provided it is set aside several days before using?

The lack of this positive information may be the reason I had trouble earlier this year. I baked my soil for two hours and used it as soon as it cooled. I believe this had a toxic effect on the plants. Before I knew what was happening, the leaves began to look weak as though they were not getting any food value. They continued to bloom and now they have improved to a great extent since fertilizer was used. Do you think that could have been my trouble? You see, I did not read enough magazines, for I am sure I could have found out more if I had tried.

What about other ways of sterilizing the soil? Are Fumi-Caps sufficient? One article I read on Organic Mix sounded as if it did not need sterilization. Perhaps someone very soon will write an article which will cover all types of soil sterilization, or a reference to another article on various types which would make it clear to both the beginner and the expert.

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LATITUDE 0°

Pamela Hope-Jones, Quito, Ecuador

There are some parts of the world that seem just made for the cultivation of African violets. My husband is a British diplomat, and I hope that one day we shall be sent to one of these posts. But at the moment we are in Quito, the capital of Ecuador, and though Quito is a delightful place in many ways, its situation is far from ideal for anyone like myself who feels that a house is not really a home until there are African violets all over the place. Quito is a few miles south of the Equator, nine thousand four hundred feet above sea level. I must admit that I feel quite a sense of achievement when I look round our home at the one hundred healthy violet plants in various stages of growth.

Except for a few miserable, diseased specimens of the *Ionantha* type growing in the best nursery garden, there are no African violets for sale here. All of mine are plants, or descendants of plants, that I bought in England when we went home on leave last March. I had meant to bring back some small plantlets with me, but I had become so attached to the plants I had bought at the beginning of my leave (I was in England for six months) that I could not bear the thought of parting with them, they were so lovely and were blooming their heads off. So in the end all the plants came with us: thirteen which were about fifteen months old, fourteen unseparated plantlets, and a number of rooted leaves in polythene bags.

Of course African violets are not the most convenient form of hand-luggage for a four-week journey by rail, sea, road, and air. Porters treat one with a sort of tolerant pity. It took weeks for my husband to lose that 'never again' look. And it will be a long time before I forget the expression on the face of our steward on the 'Reina del Mar' when he first put his head round our bathroom door and found me giving first aid to the babies, after they had been wrapped up for thirty hours. If it had not been for the warmth and humidity of the bathroom, the plants would never have survived the journey. As it was, it proved impossible to give them enough light; and it was even worse for the first three weeks after our arrival in Quito when we were in a hotel. But on the first of November, seven weeks after leaving England, we moved into our present house, and though by then there was not one bloom or sign of a bud on any of them, not a single plant had died.

For the first fortnight I kept them in the small sitting room we use when we are alone, but it soon became obvious that there was not sufficient warmth or humidity to bring them into flower. So we built an indoor greenhouse. Leading off the drawing-room there is a large room we call the Patio, of which the sloping roof and one wall are made entirely of glass. Being on the Equator, the sun shines fiercely through the roof most of the day, and the temperature in

the sun will rise to one hundred and fifteen degrees by mid-day and drop to between fifty and fifty-five degrees every night. It was not feasible to paint over, or in some way shade the whole roof for the benefit of the violets, so my husband helped me build an enclosure, made of polythene supported by bamboo canes, measuring about six by six by six feet. Inside this enclosure there is a small electric fire connected to a thermostat set at sixty degrees. The floor is covered with damp moss on top of which I have put a home-made duck board to keep my feet dry. All the plants are on small tables in trays containing crushed limestone or moss, which I keep constantly damp, and there is a dish of water on the fire. All this helps to keep up the humidity, which varies between forty and sixty percent. The temperature always rises to eighty or eighty-two degrees by mid-day, and of course never drops below sixty degrees at night. There are about twelve hours daylight throughout the year, and I do not use any form of artificial light to supplement the daylight.

At first I found the polythene was not sufficient protection against the sun's rays, and one or two of the young plants had some of their leaves scorched. I put two layers of lace curtains over the roof of the greenhouse and this seems to afford sufficient protection. Within six weeks of putting the plants in this greenhouse all the larger plants were blooming profusely. Recently I moved some of the blooming plants into the drawing-room on the windowledges to see if they would continue to flower there. The temperature always drops to between fifty-five and sixty degrees at night, but they have been there two weeks now and seem perfectly happy; indeed, the flowers stay on longer than they did in England, and they are larger too. I have just counted the flowers on one plant of Blue Lady, which perhaps has more than most, though all of them are in heavy bloom, and there were about forty-eight open flowers. Purple Knight has the largest flowers; they measure exactly two inches across. The flowers on some of the other plants measure about one and seven-eighths inches.

These plants are all pot bound in three and one-half inch pots, but because they appear quite content, and because of the difficulty of making up suitable compost, I am leaving them where they are.

Inside the greenhouse, plants are growing in an assortment of containers, plastic, earthenware, coloured glass and decorated ceramic pots; while others are in shells, a tin-lined basket, a teapot from France, ceramic mugs from Jerusalem, a strawberry jar from England and plastic wickered containers from the States. They seem to do equally well in all of them, although of course it is necessary to be more careful with the watering of those plants in watertight containers.

Most of the plantlets were multiple-crown when we brought them here. I have since divided

each of them into single-crown plants, because I think they make better shaped plants. Several of these are already in flower and almost all the rest are showing buds. I can see no sign of pest or disease, but I think this is due more to good luck than to good management, for the most I have ever done is to spray them occasionally with an orchid insecticide, and I have never sterilized the potting soil.

Now that I have finished the ingredients I brought with us from England for making up the compost, I am wondering what I shall do next time I need to pot up my violets. Making a suitable compost, which is both rich, yet light and porous, with the local ingredients is going to be a problem. In Quito it is impossible to buy or find such things as vermiculite, coarse sand, peat of any kind, phosphorus or potash rock, hoof and horn or bonemeal. Even leaf mould is very hard to come by, as the only woods in the neighbourhood are eucalyptus plantations and their leaves do not decompose properly. Real loam, too, is not available here as we cannot grow the sort of fibrous-rooted turf we get in England. The materials available here are: garden soil (light and slightly alkaline), well decomposed cow or rabbit manure, crushed limestone, fine sand, pumice stone, sphagnum moss and a little decomposed vegetable matter or dead leaves. Can any member suggest how best to use these components, or must I import peat or vermiculite or leafmould?

I water my plants when they need it, sometimes from above and sometimes from below; and I feed them about every ten days with one or another of the various liquid organic plant foods I brought from England. I have not had one case of petiole rot, which is so common in England, even though some of the rims of the pots are quite rough and the leaves often rest on them. The only criticism I have is that, for my liking, the petioles are not sufficiently long, especially with the girl type, which tends to look a bit bunchy. Perhaps they are still getting too much light.

Altogether my violets give me a fair amount of work and a great deal of pleasure. I enjoy showing them to many visitors who come to our house. The ladies in particular are enchanted with them. Most people have never seen an African violet before and are surprised to discover, even from my small collection, what an enormous variety of colour and form is to be found. Other people, I think, are slightly puzzled that I should take such pleasure and pride in such a comparatively modest little plant, when in the other part of the Patio all sorts of begonias are growing with masses of flowers and very little attention. They include the large-flowered tuberous-rooted begonia, the rhizomatous, the cane-stemmed, the fibrous-rooted, and the begonia Rex. All beautiful, I agree, in their own particular way, but rather flamboyant and ostentatious compared to the infinite charm, variety, loveliness, and profusion of that dainty plant that grows inside my polythene greenhouse. end

WICK WATERING

Mrs. John L. Ricker, Norwood, Pennsylvania

- Q. What is wick watering? Are there any advantages in using the wick watering method?
- A. Wick watering means supplying the water by the use of a wick. The wick is inserted through a hole in the bottom of the pot and water is poured into a saucer which is under the pot. The advantages are that the water is applied directly and slowly to the roots of the plant and does not come in contact with the crown where it sometimes causes decay, that there is less danger of leaf burn due to water spilled on the leaves which are exposed to the sun, and that the watering time is cut to a minimum.
- Q. Do you use different size wicks for different size pots?
- A. I use the same size wick in three to five inch pots.
- Q. Will you tell me your soil formula for wick watering?
- A. My soil formula is 16 quarts of woods earth
8 quarts of builders sand
8 quarts of peat moss
8 quarts of humus
1 quart of dried cow manure
2 quarts of charcoal, broken into small pieces
1 pint of ground limestone rock
1 pint of Sponge-Rok
1 pint of Hoover's Blend
1 pint of Hybrotite potash
½ pint of Electra
- Q. Should the soil be any different for use in wick fed pots?
- A. My soil formula for wick watering is the same as I use for other ways of watering.
- Q. How often do you have to water if you use wick watering?
- A. In wick watering, once a week should be adequate in a room temperature of seventy degrees unless the plants are in direct sunlight or placed over a hot radiator.
- Q. Would it be possible for me to go on a two weeks vacation without a violet sitter if I plant my African violets in wick fed pots?
- A. Before going on your two weeks vacation give your plants a thorough soaking in warm water; also spray the foliage then refill the saucers and place them in a room temperature of sixty-five to seventy degrees where they will have daylight and a little fresh air. Keep the plants away from hot radiators and strong sunlight.
- Q. Can you over-water with wick watering?
- A. You can over-water if you keep the saucer full continuously. Let the saucer and the soil become dry before rewatering.
- Q. How do you fertilize plants in wick fed pots?
- A. Always put the fertilizer on the top soil, using the fertilizer in the strength as directed by the manufacturer.
- Q. Why do you grow your plants by the wick watering method?
- A. Growing by the wick watering method means there is less time required for watering and there is less danger of crown rot, water spotting and burn when exposed to the sun. I think they grow more symmetrically. They are nicer for gift giving, especially for those who are careless about watering. It also gives the windowsill a neat and uniform appearance when the plants are grown in plastic pots with the saucers instead of clay pots and all types of water containers.
- Q. How do you repot a plant growing in a wick fed pot?
- A. To repot a plant growing in a wick fed container, the procedure is the same as for any other pot except that the wick must be inserted through the hole in the bottom of the pot. The same wick can be reused.
- Q. Can you tell when a plant growing in a wick pot needs repotting?
- A. You can tell when it is time to repot the violet by inserting a pencil near the edge of the pot to a depth of two inches. If the soil feels packed with roots, it is time to repot to the next largest size.
- Q. Do African violets grown in wick fed pots have springtails?
- A. The wick method does not control springtails.
- Q. Should I ever water my plants in wick fed pots from the top of the pot?
- A. Yes, after fertilizing, which should always be done from the top, the next watering should be done from the top to carry the fertilizer down to the root system.
- Q. I want to use sheep sticks or Plantabs as a fertilizer. How should I use a solid fertilizer?
- A. I have never used a solid fertilizer.
- Q. Can African violets be grown by hydroponics?
- A. African violets can be grown by hydroponics. The water should be changed once a month.
- Q. How dry should I let the soil get in my wick fed pots before rewatering?

- A. Insert a pencil in the soil to a depth of two inches; if it comes out dry, it is time to rewater.
- Q. Are the wicks used in wick fed pots reusable if your plant had a disease and died in the wick fed pot?
- A. It is not advisable to reuse a wick taken from a diseased plant. It is poor economy.
- Q. Do plants grow as fast and bloom just as well in wick fed pots as in clay pots?
- A. I think plants grow and bloom just as fast in wick fed pots as they do in the usually used clay pots.
- Q. Are you less apt to over-water if you use wick fed pots?
- A. You are less apt to over-water if you use wick fed pots.
- Q. May I convert my clay pots into wick fed pots?
- A. You can convert clay pots into wick fed pots by inserting a wick through the drainage hole; when using clay pots, use one-half inch of gravel in the bottom of the pot before adding the soil. The clay pot absorbs the water, adding extra moisture to the soil.
- Q. Is it possible to have a growing flat equipped with wick watering?
- A. I cannot give you any instruction on a growing flat with wick watering.
- Q. Can the wicks for wick fed pots be purchased separately?
- A. The wicks can be purchased separately. Try your violet supply houses. I purchase mine from Tinari's Greenhouses, Bethayres, Pennsylvania.
- Q. I cannot spend the money for the lovely expensive plastic, glass and glazed wick fed pots. How may I make myself some inexpensive ones?
- A. To make inexpensive wick pots you could make aluminum pots out of pie plates, following the method given by Bess Greeley of Chicago, Illinois, in the December 1957 issue of the African Violet Magazine. I use three and four inch plastic pots which are not expensive when bought in quantities of fifty to one hundred.
- Q. Step by step tell me how to pot up a plant in a wick fed pot?
- A. To pot a wick fed pot, insert the wick through the hole in the bottom of the pot, spread it wheel like over pot bottom, allow about one and one-half inch length of wick to extend into the saucer, hold the wick and the pot with the left hand, add one-third inch layer of gravel or small stones, then a layer of soil, keeping the wick in the center of the pot. Place your plant on the wick; with a spoon add more soil and press down slightly, using your fingers; add and firm the soil to one-half inch from the top of the pot. The finished planting should find the bottom row of leaves resting on the rim of

the pot. As the plant grows upward, more soil may be added.

- Q. Do small plants grow well by the wick watering method?
- A. Small plants grow well by the wick watering method. end



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African Violet Supply House

DEVELOPMENT OF FRINGED TYPE VARIETIES

Paul Rockelmann, Linwood, New Jersey

I am particularly partial to the fringed type violets, undoubtedly due to the fact that fringed violets originated here at Fischer's Greenhouses. From the very beginning I knew the fringed type variety would find its place in the violet world.

Some of you who read this article will probably remember the Fischer Fringettes of several years ago; also the opinions expressed by some individuals such as, "Beautiful blossoms, but unable to adjust to the new type waved foliage, and habit of growth." The Fringettes were in fact an entirely new type of violet not only in blossom and foliage characteristics, but also in their manner of growth. As this new type variety of African violet was far from satisfactory in my mind, I immediately began working on the task of improving this violet creation through additional hybridizing. Since there were many angles of approach for improvement, such as more vigorous growth, more attractive foliage, larger blossoms, more blossoms, etc. I had a wide field to cover.

As it is difficult or impossible to improve all characteristics through one or two crosses it was necessary to make many crosses in order to bring about many of these improvements.

In order to improve the growth and foliage, it was necessary to cross pollinate with violets having foliage of a stronger and more vigorous type. The fringed characteristic being recessive, most of the offspring were not fringed types but of plain foliage and blossoms. However, the few seedlings with the best waved foliage were selected for future crossing. This procedure was also carried out with blossom type, flower stem, flower size, and nature of fringe. Crosses were also made with double varieties having fringed characteristics. Our Double Margaret was the original fringed double and was used extensively in our early breeding.

Through each consecutive cross, improvements over the previous crosses were found. It is impossible to develop a perfect violet with every characteristic just as you want it. From each crop of seedlings we must select the seedlings with the most desirable characteristics. (Example) A seedling with a desired type of

foliage is crossed with one having a desired type flower stem. The pollen of each is placed on the stigma of the other plant. In the case of some double blossoms it is impossible to find fully developed stigmas that will produce seed pods with fertile seed. This being the case it is possible to use only pollen from the double blossom to pollinate the single variety. It is possible that the seedling offspring will produce a few seedlings that have combined the two desirable characteristics. If the desired combined characteristic does not show up in the original cross, self crossing of the most promising seedling, or else back crossing on the original seedling should bring out the desired characteristics as the genes from both of the plants with the original desired characteristics should be present in these seedlings and some should combine in the second cross to produce the desired results.

The Fischer Ballerina Series were descendants of our original Fringette Series. Through a series of Fringette crosses and the selection of seedlings with improved fringed characteristics we were able to produce the Fischer Ballerina Series which were a considerable improvement over the original Fringettes as to foliage characteristics, larger blossoms, improved fringe, better flower stems and flowering habit. More crosses were made using the Ballerina plants with the most desirable fringed characteristics for continued improvement. Following the Ballerinas came the more recent pastel frilled varieties giving us some new and different shades with continued improvement. These also, we felt, had their place in the fringed violet parade.

Further hybridizing and improvements among these pastel fringed types produced our newest, the now popular Cascade varieties.

The present Cascade Series are the result of various crosses of our better fringed varieties.

We will continue these crosses to further improve foliage, flowering habit, substance of bloom, size of blossom, color, and color variations. Our present Cascades, although excellent in most respects, represent but one more step in our forward progress for better violets, for which we are constantly striving. end

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African violets, begonias, ferns, philodendrons, foliage plants, novelties, geraniums, supplies. Sodium selenate 50¢; VC-13, \$2.95 prepaid. (Sterile soil 10¢ per lb. and specimen plants at greenhouse.) Open every day. Located 1 mi. S.W. McGrawsville. Shipping every day. Fall list supplement.

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KEEP YOUR GREENHOUSE RIGHT FOR HEALTHY PLANTS

Margaret L. Travis, Knoxville, Tenn.

Everyone wants healthy and beautiful African violets, and for those who raise theirs in greenhouses, there are certain precautions that may be taken, and certain routines that may be followed to produce the desired results.

A regular spraying program should eliminate any insects that may have come in.

Tools and benches should be cleaned after being used.

Dirty pots, flats, and rubbish should be removed daily from the greenhouse.

Old leaves and dead flowers should be picked from the plants and thrown out.

If a diseased plant is discovered, it should be thrown out at once.

Buy new plants from reliable sources, but even then it is best to isolate them for a few weeks to see that no troubles develop.

Take cuttings from healthy plants, and root them in clean sand, vermiculite or sphagnum moss.

Use sterilized soil.

Never crowd plants. Always allow enough space for free circulation of air.

Handle plants carefully. Injury during transplanting or moving makes them more susceptible to disease.

Do not overwater, and do not splash water on foliage. Foliage that is wet when the temperature drops at night can cause trouble. It is best to water in the morning when the temperature is rising so that the leaves will be dry before nightfall.

Excessive moisture may cause fungus disease. Desert to swamp conditions may produce root rot.

A careful control of ventilation, temperature and moisture, plus the necessary precautions against insects and diseases, will create a clean, fresh greenhouse atmosphere and be conducive to healthy, beautiful African violets. end

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RENEE — Pretty medium blue, large blossom, open girl foliage.

TIANA — Wine-red, prominent yellow stamens.

KATHY — Perky blue, with white edge.

MELO — Very large deep pink double, beautiful dark quilted foliage.

For the best of the new introductions, and many of the older favorites too, plan to visit our greenhouses. Thousands of blooming plants to see, visitors always welcome. (Closed on Sundays from June to mid-October.)

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THE FIRST THRILL

Ruth Tyner, St. John, N. B., Canada

At the Saint John Exhibition in 1957, my African violets had their first coming out party, and I was as thrilled as they must have been, for they were greatly admired.

I had made inquiries about a booth for the Loyalist African Violet Society of New Brunswick, but as too many of the ladies would be away, the idea was dropped and forgotten. About two weeks before the Exhibition opened, Mr. Carey, who was in charge of the booths, telephoned me and said that they had a cancellation, and gave me the opportunity of taking the booth. After talking it over with my husband, I decided to go ahead. One of our members, Mrs. Peach, said she would help me as much as she could. She was not able to help very much, but Mr. Peach was very kind and gave some time. He would come over for an hour or so to relieve me while I had my lunch.

Now to get back to the violets and the booth. First of all, it had to be enclosed. So my husband and I, along with a carpenter, got busy. The gate was fixed to open the wrong way and hooked top and bottom to discourage people from walking in, but some were highly insulted because they were refused admittance. It is surprising how many people just cannot understand that plants should not be handled or touched.

The plants were arranged on a long, low table with a small fluorescent plant stand placed in the center of it. This table was set at the back of the booth. About a foot away from each end of the table there was a plant stand. These stands were made to hold one plant on the top and one at each side, staggered so that the bottom plants were about fourteen inches from the floor. A fern stand on one side of the booth and an old gingerale stand on the other side were filled with violets. The plants were at least seven feet from the railing around the booth, which I had to enclose with beaverboard to keep the

children out. I had a table displaying supplies on each side in the front. On one side I had the soil mix, starting medium, rooting powder, fertilizer, vermiculite, plastic flower pots, and the pans I use myself. On the other table, soil, planters, and pots of all kinds were displayed. These were supplied by one of our local merchants.

After everything was arranged and I had a good look at the result, I had the feeling that my violets knew they were going to be on exhibit. They held their blooms so well although some had been in full bloom for three or four weeks, and they continued to hold their blooms all week, though it turned cold and was very drafty. This was during the last week in August.

Opening time arrived. The first day was not too busy for me, but the people from the other booths were very much interested in the violets. I forgot to say that I designed, made, and painted my own letters used for the name of the booth, "The Violet Patch," an idea taken from the Magazine.

The second day arrived and so did the crowd. From then on, the people never stopped coming, and everyone was hungry for information on African violet care. "How do you get your plants to bloom?" was the question asked the most, and that really answers ALL questions, doesn't it? When you finish answering that question, you have more or less helped people solve most of their problems on growing African violets.

In the building I was in, the Violet booth drew the crowd, and sometimes the people were five and six deep. As the week wore on and my voice started to give out, I started to say to myself, "If I could only sit down!" The booth owners across the way and next to me decided they would have to do something to get the people to their booths. As the crowd stopped to admire the African violets, they took turns coming out in

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LIFETIME PLASTIC MARKERS are ideal for the grower or dealer who wants easy to mark, permanent, easy to read identification of plants, cuttings or seedlings. Also used for naming and pricing plants on display for sale or in shows.

Write on LIFETIME PLASTIC MARKERS with ordinary soft or medium lead pencil. May be used indoors or outside. They may be cleaned with household cleanser and reused repeatedly. Will not rot or disintegrate.

Style A is used for African violets and other house plants in greenhouse or home.

Label is $\frac{1}{2}$ x 2", total length $4\frac{1}{2}$ ".

Postpaid prices: 75 for \$1.00, 100 for \$1.25, 500 for \$5.50.

Style B is ideal for plants on display for sale or in shows. The large 2" x 1" label is easily read. Adjust for correct angle by dipping in boiling water and bending.

Postpaid prices: 50 for \$2.00, 100 for \$2.75, 500 for \$11.00.



HARVEY J. RIDGE

1126 Arthur St.

Dept. J85

Wausau, Wis.

front of my booth "barking" on the drawings and contests they were having, to keep the crowd moving. Little did they know they were a blessing in disguise.

Holiday and Double Pink Cheer were the two plants that attracted most attention. Next came Double Neptune, one of the first varieties in my collection. The week was tiring but worth while, and I hope the people to whom I talked have been helped in some way by the information I gave them. I find that people are hungry for information on African violet culture, so I am having a little leaflet mimeographed entitled, "An Amateur Helping An Amateur."

People who attended the Exhibition were from all over the Maritimes, a few from Ontario, British Columbia, California, and the eastern United States.

My display, which was only a display, was probably very small compared to those in the United States, but the Violet Bug has just recently hit New Brunswick. I have over two hundred varieties. In closing, I might say that although I did not receive a First this year in the Flower Show at the Exhibition, I did receive a Second and a Third prize. My violets made me proud. end

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To those of you who were disappointed in not being able to buy our ORGANIC MIX, we have made arrangements to have it packaged for shipping at \$3.50 per bushel — Freight collect.

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FOR LOVE OF A VIOLET

(VOLUME 2)

Mrs. Michael Pachowiak, Jr., Michigan City, Ind.

Do you remember when I wrote to you last year about the ups and downs of a vice-president of an African violet club? That's when I said — maybe I would tell you about the Very Easy Time a president has. So now to work.

In December of 1956 when I presided over my first meeting, I was so full of butterflies and even a few mealy bugs and mites I forgot to eat breakfast and almost forgot to arrive at the right home that afternoon. The agenda was practically memorized, to put everything in its proper order. Everything went so smoothly until it was time to hear the report of the committee on the revising of our by-laws. Gosh, what's the right way to put them in proper order? Even giving the new year books to members (how I hurried to finish them) could not erase the thoughts of — what is a by-law? What's a standing rule? But, at the end of the meeting, the Christmas spirit was again showing.

January 21st, our first meeting date of the new year, began on a happy note. We had found a parliamentarian to take complete charge of our by-laws, for a very small fee. I couldn't help feeling our troubles were over. (Note to other clubs: If you have by-law woes it would be well worth your money to get a helping hand.) This day we also laid the groundwork for our spring show.

During February's roll call I noted that almost everyone was able to come, in spite of the miserable weather. After all regular reports were taken care of — now came those — you know whats — the by-laws. They were read and accepted with only a few changes. (Now, Gerry, get to work and have them printed.) I purchased a revised edition of The Robert's Book of Rules, for I felt I was not well versed in parliamentary procedure. This the members voted to accept. (When I opened the book, there was my agenda and all the do's and don'ts before my eyes. All year that book was my constant companion at meetings.) Before the meeting closed we discussed the date of our show — April 28th — chose a color scheme and our theme — Violet Hit Parade. Then, home with a list of things to work on for the show.

March's meeting was short but pleasant. All reports were well received, and the program so interesting. More show data was "ironed out."

The April meeting was called to order by the vice-president as my pride an' joy had the chicken pox. While nursing a boy with a high fever, I typed the agenda and all business transactions, and fussed and worried if I had forgotten anything. (I seemed to become a mother hen worrying about my little violet chicks.) All final show plans were taken care of. The printers had

returned the by-laws. I had planned to defray all by-law expenses by holding a silent auction. Gee, I hated to miss this one as I just love auctions, and also the extra money was a boost in our treasury. You know, I think I fretted more about that treasury than my own weekly budget.

Now the Sunday of our show. The rain came down from dawn to almost show time. But, our spirits were not dampened a bit. The tables were beautiful and everything so pretty. We greeted over five hundred guests. What compliments we received! It made us so happy we forgot how tired we were.

May and its show "let down" came next. I just had to tell everyone again how helpful they were and how everyone "put their shoulder to the wheel." This meeting day we all seem to linger a bit longer as this is our last regular meeting till fall.

June brought a picnic at our beach — the singing sands of Michigan City — of which we are so proud. What a good, delicious, pot-luck lunch we had. Then to each a "good-bye" and "happy vacation." (Do your members seem to have a summer period of almost forgetting their violets? These months my Unit 17 Pigeon girls kept me in touch. God bless them.)

Soon it was September and our fall meeting day. Such a warm day and what a day to meet the members again. All business was finished easily. The program was a talk on gibrel acid, a subject I am most interested in.

At our October meeting all members were asked to bring a violet plant — big or small — to be taken to the Tuberculosis Sanatorium near here. This was our outside project. It's so nice to share our plants, in particular with sick people. At this meeting we elect the new year's officers. Oh, boy, hip hooray, almost through for the year. Next year I'll sit back and take it easy. Wait a minute — read those words again — at the bottom of the list

1958's publicist — G. Pachowiak.

Yike - - - Now, woman, remember to carry a pencil and pad and keep your little ears open, eh?

Today, November 21st, my last day as president, also our annual birthday luncheon. Everything is progressing nicely, you have turned the meeting over to the new president, so now sit back, relax, don't even think (and I'm good at that), just relax. What's that? Oh, my gosh, the newspaper deadline for club news is at nine, so come on, get busy, think, write down, do it over, did you forget anything? Is it correct? Are you sure?

Say, somewhere in these words I said I was going to relax and not work this next year, I just know I said that. But, you know, it's all worth it — for, as the title says — it's for the Love of a Violet. end

A DEPENDABLE SOIL FORMULA

Bertha D. Morris, Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania

Why doesn't my African violet bloom? This is the question most often asked. As one grower put it, you are the reason your violet doesn't bloom. The plant is willing, but you must supply the proper growing conditions.

This means that the plant must have good soil, proper light intensity, systematic watering, even temperature, proper humidity, the right food and constant grooming.

In giving a formula for mixing soil for growing African violets, it is important to know the kind of top soil that is used. The other ingredients can be obtained in all parts of the country.

I get my top soil from a wooded section here at my home in Drexel Hill, south eastern Pennsylvania. The common species of trees here are the white oak, black oak, American beech, black walnut, white ash, dogwood, maple and tulip trees. Wild flowers and shrubs also add to the chemical analysis of the soil. In sections of the country where the soil does not have the right variety of leaf mold, chemicals and fertilizers may be added.

Soil Recipe

- 1 part top soil (10 quart bucket)
- 1 part sterilized humus
- 1 part builder's sand
- 2 quarts peat moss
- 2 cups broken charcoal

Screen the soil through a coarse sieve. Mix all ingredients well and place in a covered container (fifty pound lard tin). Add one-fourth cup of liquid formaldehyde mixed in one cup of water. Mix well into soil. Cover container and allow to stand three or four days. Then, expose to light and air until all trace of odor is gone before using. (Formaldehyde bought at drug store — formaldehyde 37%, alcohol 63%.)

I use the formaldehyde as a disinfectant rather than sterilizing the soil in the oven. It destroys all living insects, worms or grubs, and seems to be satisfactory for growing African violets.

The question has been asked about the method of potting plants for watering from the top.

Whenever I pot a plant in a container that requires top watering, I use about two inches of pebbles in the bottom of the container before adding the soil. Water only when the soil feels dry to the touch. Do not overwater. Care must be taken to leave space at the top of the pot for easy watering. end

now!

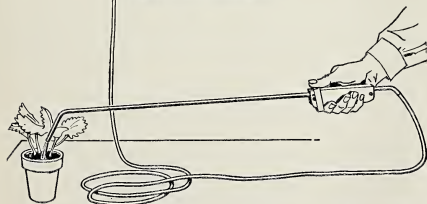
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A new book by Esther C. Grayson fully illustrated from photographs by F. F. Rockwell gives a complete guide on the growing and culture of African Violets. It is also a reference book for listings of new varieties as to color, style of flower and names. Covers subject of propagation from cuttings and seeds as well as divisions.

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Mrs. Dakers displays one of her plants which is about twenty inches in diameter.



SAUDI ARABIA

Jennie J. Dakers, Ras Tanura, Dhahran,

To better understand the difficulties of growing African violets out here in Saudi Arabia and WHY we go to all the trouble in order to have flowers and plants, one needs to know a little about our soil, climate and living conditions.

Many of the Arabs live in their black tents (made of goat's hair), wandering over the desert from water hole to water hole and from grassy spot to thorny patch, with their sheep, goats, camels and families — living mainly on goat cheese, camel milk, mutton, rice and dates. Others live in the villages which are located near or in an oasis where there is sweet water and date palms are growing.

Our company towns, though, are not built near an oasis, which is really lucky for us as those villages have absolutely no sanitary facilities. Consequently the flies and mosquitoes are simply terrible. The infant mortality rate among the Arabs is over eighty percent. For instance, take my Arab gardener — his wife is twenty-three years old — they have had a baby every year for eight years and only two of them are living, and those two look puny.

Our towns are built either near the oil wells, or, as the one we live in, right here on the sand dunes and beach of the Persian Gulf where the refinery and piers for shipping out the oil are located. There is no vegetation whatsoever except for scattered patches of little desert bushes and thorn which survive in pure sand with an abundance of sunshine and wind, along with a meager amount of rainfall during two or three of the winter months. We have absolutely no top soil, except for about nine inches which the Company had brought in so we can raise some grass, flowers, small shrubs and hedges. The hedges are very necessary because we have so much wind, which burns the plants like a searing blast of a blow torch when it really blows. We

are building up our soil, though, with manure brought down on Arab dhows from Basra, and with sea weeds.

Our water comes from deep wells the Company has drilled. It is very brackish and only alkaline loving plants will thrive well in it. For drinking water we have distilled water. Needless to say, my African violets and other house plants drink it too.

The climate from the middle of June to the middle of October is VERY hot. All the other months are very pleasant except for the wind storms. December and January are very windy and chilly, which we feel here on the gulf where the humidity ranges for sixty to one hundred percent most of the time, making the heat and the cold both felt more keenly. Inland the climate is much drier.

But! We have our compensations. For instance, we have miles of the most wonderful beaches which surpass anything the French Riviera has, and equal those of California or Florida, plus more of it — except of course the back-drop of greenery. The Persian Gulf is the most beautiful body of water I have ever seen. Every time I look out my window at it, it seems to be a different shade of blue-green, depending on the depth of the tide and the position of the sun shining into it.

Ras Tanura (our town) is located on a little peninsula, which means we have a sheltered bay. It is ideal for a small boat harbor. Many of the people here do have boats and enjoy water skiing and fishing. There is an abundance of fish. I often go out on one of the oil loading piers (which extends out in the gulf over a quarter of a mile in order to reach deep enough water for the oil tankers) and look down into the clear water and watch the different schools of fish.

Often there will be a school of porpoise romping and playing like a group of children in a swimming pool, putting on an aquacade just for our benefit.

Our homes are all modern, just as if we were living in the United States, with even one added comfort — air-conditioning both winter and summer. That, of course, troubles the violets as there is a draft in the rooms all the time, which usually centers right on the windows where one normally would place the violets. We overcame that by building special shelves for the violets and installing fluorescent lights over them. I have two rows of shelves along two sides of my bedroom, plus some in the living room. (My husband says he expects to come home any day and find his bed gone and violets in its place.)

The fluorescent lights have to be imported, as do the pots, the violets, and the soil in which to grow them. I have brought all my materials from the United States except a few pots I obtained from India. In fact, everything we have, use, and eat has to be imported.

I have a beautiful African violet I bought in Holland. It has very deep green, glossy leaves which are red on the reverse side. It is not a profuse bloomer, but the beauty of its foliage makes up for the lack of blossoms. It grows to be twenty-two inches in diameter.

I grow my violets in three parts peat-moss, two parts vermiculite, one part sand, and a little charcoal added. Then I feed them Hyponex at least once each week. Everyone here can testify that I am not exaggerating when I say that my violets seem to never stop blooming except when I repot them, which is about every three years. Then, usually by the end of three months, they are blooming again. I will have to add another exception — that is when we go on our three month vacation (we stay out here for two years and then get a three month vacation). Getting someone to care-take our African violets properly while we are away for three months is a big problem. No matter how carefully I explain to them how to care for the violets, my poor violets look sick when I return. It just makes me heart sick too.

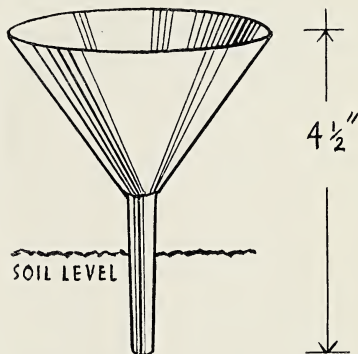
Each time we go home to the United States for our vacation, I always bring back more violets, and then discard those I care the least for. (That is hard to do — as I love them all — but do not have room to keep all.) Since we travel via plane and luggage weight is a great concern, I take the violets out of their pots and place them in paper cups with as little soil as possible. I then place the cups in the cardboard six-bottle beer cartons as they are just the right depth to protect the leaves if they extend above the rim of the cup. I have a light weight suitcase which will hold five cartons in an upright position in the bottom and another row of five cartons on top of those. Then I persuade the air-officials to let me take the suitcase inside the plane with me so I can keep it in an upright

Continued bottom next column

A SIMPLE METHOD OF WATERING AFRICAN VIOLETS THROUGH A PLASTIC FUNNEL

Harold E. Nutt, Leicester, England

The idea of using a funnel was developed in the troughs which I use for growing African violets (see page 38 of the March 1958 African Violet Magazine). I find this much better than soaking all the soil with water, and, most important, I am able to get the water to the roots of the plants instead of it keeping the surface too damp, which so easily creates stem rot.



I plunge the funnel to the bottom of the trough and then just lift it about half-an-inch and add warm water either with or without the Liquinure or Seaweed base food.

I also use the same method for watering the larger plants in pots where it is sometimes difficult to get the watering can to the top of the pot. end

The 1959 Convention will be held in Detroit, Michigan, on April 16, 17, 18, 1959.

position and open the lid a crack to let in air. The violets withstand the trip better than any other kind of plant I have attempted to bring over here. Those which I brought over in 1951 are still growing beautifully.

I hope each member of our African Violet Society will realize from the above that if African violets can be grown in Arabia they can be grown in most any part of the world. end

YES, WE GROW AFRICAN VIOLETS ON A TREE

Anne Tinari, Bethayres, Pennsylvania

To see an artistic African violet arrangement or a strawberry jar filled with blooming violets is not an uncommon sight today. African violets are being used more and more to enhance our homes in many beautiful arrangements and in novel ways.

However, the most unusual arrangement that has caused much comment and conversation is a huge old tree trunk about twelve feet high sitting on a tile greenhouse bench in our show house. People have come back many times to study or photograph or even bring friends to see this tree trunk covered with blooming violets.

The question so often asked is "How on earth did you ever transport such a huge part of a tree into the greenhouse and how do you keep it in bloom?" Actually, it took much forethought and planning. The idea struck Frank and his hunting companions when they were in the woods one day following the severe storm "Hazel" which ravaged many of our beautiful old trees here in the Bethayres Valley. This large old trunk had to be hauled across a large body of water adjoining our property. One cold winter day when the Pennypack Creek had been frozen solid, with the aid of four men they managed to roll it across the ice and drag it into working quarters.

The old tree trunk had to be conditioned and fumigated to enter into its resting place inch by inch. First, it was cleaned and scraped down with a strong Optox solution. After this was dry, a thorough spraying with VC-13 was applied.

Even a tiny spore could cause contamination in a greenhouse and every precaution must be taken.

Now the real work of planting can be done but first there had to be a base to plant in and in this case an artificial one had to be provided. Layers and layers of sphagnum moss had to be wired on from top to bottom to a thickness of about three inches. Heavy baling wire was used, and with this process finally completed the moss was treated with Optox and VC-13 and allowed to dry thoroughly.

At this point the tree trunk was lifted onto the greenhouse bench and anchored firmly overhead to steel beams with wire.

This tree finally reached the planting point. Over one hundred two-and-one-quarter inch plants were used of many varied varieties. They were removed from their pots and with roots intact were planted in the moss pockets covering the entire trunk. Young plants heavily budded were used. In about three weeks the tree came alive with glowing African violet colors.

Many ask how one keeps an arrangement of this kind alive and in good health and in bloom. The answer lies in the fact that a greenhouse atmosphere has much to do with this. It is maintained free of disease due to Parathion gas used in the greenhouses periodically. Once in a great while a plant will need to be replaced but they seem to thrive and grow to great proportions in this manner, and our trailing types especially feel so at home. It is at its height in the spring of the year, but maintains constant bloom of various degrees at all times of the year.

Visitors from near and far places have enjoyed its unusual beauty and have returned for a second look. There is so much personal joy and satisfaction in being able to spread a little happiness through one's Life's work. end

TRANSPLANTONE IS SO HELPFUL

Mrs. Brownie Zuber, Webster Groves, Missouri

When starting African violet leaves, either in water or in a rooting medium, I first dip the ends of the stems in transplantone. This hastens the formation of the roots.

When a plant gets a long snake-like stem from taking off leaves, I cut it off about two inches from the last leaves, remove the old, lower leaves, leaving a nice crown. Next I make gashes in several places on the stem, take a small paint brush and dust these gashes with transplantone, and finally place it in either a glass of water or in rooting medium for the new roots to form. This can be done even if the plant is in full bloom, and it turns my ugly-duckling into a beautiful plant. end

AFRICAN VIOLET SEED

- Mixture A — more than 50 single flowered varieties — 300 seeds — \$1.00
 - Mixture B — from varieties having "girl type" foliage — 150 seeds — \$1.00
 - Mixture C — from single flowered varieties crossed with double flowered varieties — 150 seeds — \$2.00
 - Mixture D — from pink flowered varieties crossed with other pink or white varieties — 150 seeds — \$2.00
 - Mixture FM — Our best mixture, 300 seeds \$3.00 of fine hybrids, mixed colors, fringed.
- Special Seed Starting tray containing excellent growing media designed for a "no failure" \$1.00 plus 25¢ for postage.

FOREST MILL AFRICAN VIOLET SEED

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Indianapolis, Ind.

THE LITTLEST GESNERIAD

Cornelius Ackerson, Honorary Vice President,
American Gloxinia Society

There is something about the small and seemingly delicate members of God's great universe which invokes admiration by the human portion of his realm. How often a man will say, "what a doll" about a petite and attractive member of the opposite sex. When the plant kingdom is considered, both divisions of Homo Sapiens are apt to say, "what a doll" when viewing *Sinningia pusilla* for the first time.

This little relative of the African Violet produces many little sapphire-like blooms above a crown of emerald green leaves in a pot whose diameter may be less than that of an old-fashioned locket. A dainty jewel of the horticultural world, it adds a diminutive contrast on the jungle floor of its native Brazilian forests to the overpowering floral opulence of its more garish neighbors. Thus, like our more familiar *Saintpaulia*, it revels in the moist humid atmosphere and reduced light conditions which are found beneath the lush growth in tropic climes.

Sinningia pusilla is a tuberous plant which develops from a round tuber of less than one half inch. Like most of the Gloxinias and other *Sinningias* it has no definite blooming season, but it does appreciate a resting period over the winter. During this time it should remain in its unwatered pot until it shows signs of new growth. Once it starts new life it is the fastest member of the tuberous section of the family Gesneriaceae with respect to blooming. Often the flower buds will form before the new leaves



Sinningia pusilla

are fully developed. The short-petioled leaves are only about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long and the entire crown of leaves produces a rosette at a height above the soil of less than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. They are dark-veined and hairy above and red-veined beneath. The flowers arise in succession on pedicels about 1 inch long and are a beautiful shade of lilac purple. Proportionately the flowers are quite large for the overall size of the plant, for they measure $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in length. The prominently spurred corolla-tube is lilac above and white below, with upper lobes small and close together, while the lower lobes are much larger.

This littlest Gesneriad can be a welcome addition to any *Saintpaulia* collection, for it adds a complimentary contrast to its more publicized cousins. Unfortunately supplies of tubers in this country are limited and, unlike many other Gesneriads, it does not naturally set seed. Your Society could well initiate a program for location of sources of the many Gesneriads which will make your collection of African Violets even more interesting as a specialized hobby. end

FLUOR-AL — THE ARISTOCRAT OF PLANT STANDS

The "Indoor Greenhouse" for growing and displaying African violets, gloxinias and other house plants. The FLUOR-AL may be used with or without fluorescent lights. Fixtures combining fluorescent and incandescent lights are now available (optional). The FLUOR-AL is constructed entirely of solid aluminum, with full size (nearly 20" x 52") aluminum trays for bottom watering. Provision is made for mounting an automatic time switch on the top bracket, thus combining all necessary accessories into one unit. Supplied complete with all wiring, extension cords, etc.

The FLUOR-AL is the most beautiful, most practical and highest quality of all "apartment greenhouses." You will be proud to show it to your friends and customers. An exclusive feature is the ease with which the lights may be adjusted up to a maximum height of nearly 18" above the trays.

A beautiful, well proportioned model is also available with two shelves.

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Send us your order for the new book GARDENING INDOORS UNDER LIGHTS by Frederic and Jacqueline Kranz. Full information for making and using equipment for growing flowers, vegetables and other plants by artificial light. 241 pages, plus 16 pages of illustrations, \$4.95 postpaid.

We are in position to supply the light fixtures combining fluorescent and incandescent light as described in this book as well as TIME-ALL automatic controls, soil mixes, compost, plastic markers, etc. Ask for price list.

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THE U. C. SYSTEM FOR PRODUCING HEALTHY CONTAINER-GROWN PLANTS

A Book Review

Kenneth A. Bowman

Editor: Kenneth F. Baker

Authors: Philip A. Chandler, Richard D. Durbin, John Ferguson, J. W. Huffman, O. A. Matkin, Donald E. Munneke, Chester N. Roistacher, Warren R. Schoonover, and R. H. Sciaroni

Here is a book which should be of interest to all African violet growers, large or small. The authors discuss nearly all phases of growing plants and give much general information for doing so, but of greatest importance to the African violet grower is the philosophy behind the scientific methods presented.

This philosophy holds that the best method of producing plants, from any standpoint — economics, appearance, ultimate consumer satisfaction — is to grow disease-free plants. The authors also advocate the application of the following slogan relating to plant diseases: "Don't fight 'em, eliminate 'em." In other words, don't wait until plants have a disease and then treat them for it, rather, through sanitation, keep them clean from the beginning.

Surely the African violet collector is entitled to buy plants that he can depend upon to be sturdy and free of harmful organisms which cause the death of the plants in the home and which could also infect valuable plants already carefully nurtured to maturity over many months.

After reviewing the list of subjects covered in this book it might be interesting for the reader to observe the methods of growers who supply plants locally to ascertain how carefully these methods are followed to assure you and your fellow collectors the clean plants which you deserve.

"The U. C. System" deals basically with the production of clean plants. Clean plants require a steam treated soil (or chemically treated) and since all soils cannot be so treated, the first problem which confronted the authors in their development of the U. C. System was that of finding a satisfactory soil mix which would be a suitable medium for growing plants and at the

same time permit treatment by chemicals or steam. The soil mix consisting of fine sand and peat moss with fertilizers added has met all these requirements. This soil mix has been tried and retried on an experimental basis, then later tested on a production basis by growers. This same procedure was followed in the solution of all subsequent problems as they arose so that you may be sure that any information presented in the manual is proven and practical.

Some details on the soil mix might be in order and of immediate interest to all African violet growers.

The peat moss used is Canadian, German or other sphagnum types. To reduce cost (on a commercial basis) you can substitute redwood shavings, rice hulls, etc., for part of the peat. The fine sand has particles, between 0.5 and 0.05 mm. in size, that pass through a screen with 30 meshes to the inch but not through one with 270 meshes. It must contain at least 70 percent (preferably 85 percent or more) of this size range and not more than 12 to 15 percent coarse sand, nor more than 15 percent silt and clay. Plaster sand, often used in propagation, is a coarser material and not satisfactory for a U. C. type mix.

Recommended for African violets is a mix of 50 percent peat moss and 50 percent fine sand or one of 75 percent peat moss and 25 percent fine sand. Fertilizers might be added for one cubic yard of these mixes as follows:

50 — 50

8 oz. potassium sulfate
2 lbs. single superphosphate
7½ lbs. dolomite lime
2½ lbs. calcium carbonate lime

75 — 25

8 oz. potassium sulfate
2 lbs. single superphosphate
5 lbs. dolomite lime
4 lbs. calcium carbonate lime

You will note that these fertilizers provide potassium, phosphorus, calcium, magnesium and other minor and trace elements and also adjust the acidity to a desirable level.

You will note also that no nitrogen is supplied by the fertilizers listed. This can be added in liquid form or in dry form as desired. An example of liquid feeding to add needed nitrogen might be the use of calcium nitrate at the rate of 2 lbs. per 100 gallons of water. This solution will not harm the foliage and if applied from the top in sufficient quantity to leach through the bottom of the pot should be used about every other watering.

FERNE V. KELLAR

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THE NEWEST AND OLDER VARIETIES

Write for list

Freshly cut leaves

Rooted leaves with small plantlets.

Plan a trip to see the lovely display of African violets, on Highway U. S. No. 11

The above examples are only a few of the many possibilities presented in the manual. Each grower must select the one most suitable to his needs.

The review author has followed the U. C. System for several years in the production of specimen African violets for the florist trade with outstanding success if one may judge from the acceptance by florists and their increasing sales to the public.

Other main topics covered in this book are:

1. Damp-off and related organisms.
2. Salinity problems.
3. The U. C. type soil mixes.
4. Fertilizers — their use and preparation.
5. Heat and chemical treatment of soils.
6. Clean planting stock.
7. Mechanization.

The book may be obtained by writing to: Agricultural Publications, Room 22, Giannini Hall, University of California, Berkeley 4, California. Ask for California Experiment Station Manual 23, The U. C. System for Producing Healthy Container-Grown Plants. The book is priced at \$1.00 per copy, with a 20% discount in lots of ten. Also available free at the same address is Leaflet 89 which presents a brief summary of the formulas of the U. C. type soil mixes for container growing.

JEWELS IN THE DINETTE

Mrs. A and Mrs. B

Will sometimes meet to brew some tea . . .
And either kitchen where they are
Will be as tidy as can be;
But everywhere one turns to look,
On window sills and special boards,
Like on parade, are violets —
The best that Africa affords.

How pleased are they at every bud
That comes out pink, or white, or blue;
And every plant has a different shape
To bear a bloom of different hue.

How thrilled they are at Nature's art
At which they had a helping hand!
Would that more gals could happy be
With a leafy plant in a bowl of sand.

To Mr. A and Mr. B,

The god of Love was kind to them.
They know it, too, as they kid the gals,
(These lucky men who married them)
Their wives don't tease for precious gems
Nor beg for sleek, expensive yachts;
They are quite content with violets
That bloom all year in earthen pots!

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Eugene, Oregon

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IT PAYS TO DALLY SOMETIMES!

Joy Hutson, Luton, Beds., England

In looking through my files of letters dating from 1952 to 1954, I am filled with a great longing to possess a greenhouse once again in which to grow Saintpaulias and tropical plants, but as I get spasms of my old complaint I know it can never be and I must be content with looking after my one-fourth acre of garden and about one hundred and fifty house plants mostly all of which are African violets.

On reading through many of the letters I see I had the pleasure of showing my collection of Saintpaulias to about eighty-five nurserymen, all of whom were quite taken back with what they saw. Quite a few wanted to know how I, a housewife, could manage to get leaves and plants into the country when they themselves were not allowed an import license.

To my friend Mrs. Catherine Shepherd of Arlington, Virginia, must go the credit for being, to my knowledge, first in the field in sending to England leaves and plants. Not only did she provide me with leaves and plants, but also many concoctions such as colchicine, etc., with which I could experiment.

After five years of close friendship we both are as keen on working together as always in furthering the cause of the African violet in Great Britain. Not all the time have things gone well with us, but let me tell you a little story which brings to my mind a suitable adage! "He who never makes a mistake makes nothing, but he who never tries makes less."

LEAVES ROOTED CUTTINGS SMALL PLANTS
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Caravan Coachman	Black Magic Supreme
Caravan Phantom	Blue Nocturne Supreme
Caravan New Horizon	Thunderhead
Caravan Emerald Ripple	Dresden Dream
Caravan Heirloom	Ember Pink Supreme
Caravan Queen	Invader
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Transylvania Ballerina	Pink Caress
Transylvania Gypsy	Kimberly

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QUALITY VIOLET HOUSE

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In August of last year I wrote to Catherine saying I would like some tablets of gibberellic acid. I had read of the fantastic results on indoor and outdoor plants so thought I would like to see for myself what the stuff would do. In due course the two tablets arrived, and before I started my housework I diluted as instructed in one of the gardening books. To my disappointment I found the tablets would not dissolve properly, and so instead of using and spoiling my fine mist spray I decided to dip some cottonwool in the solution and wipe the leaves with it. Better than spraying, thought I, for this method would be more thorough. For my experiment I chose African violets, houseplants in variety, plus geraniums.

Thrilled to death with having treated two dozen plants, I eagerly awaited results. Next I was horrified at what confronted me. The Saintpaulia leaves were covered with black blotches, as were also most of the other treated plants, the exception being the geraniums which stood outside in window boxes on the patio. Could it be that I had not read the instructions correctly? Surely not, for wiping the leaves is only a gentler form of spraying. That same evening I again examined the plants closely, only to see that the oily looking blotches were spreading and the leaves looked awfully sick. At once I filled a small tank with very warm water, adding a little lime, and gently immersed the pots until all the foliage was under water. For twenty-four hours they remained in the solution and when I took them out not a stalk remained on the plants, not a sign of life anywhere!



This powerful spray insecticide kills mealy bugs, aphids, white flies, thrip and other plant insects. Just press the button! A fine spray kills instantly. I-BOMB, manufactured by horticultural experts, is economical for one or many plants. It's recommended for African Violets, ivies, and other garden and house plants. Won't burn bloom or foliage. Harmless to pets and children. \$1.59 at your dealer . . . or order direct.

PLANT MARVEL LABORATORIES

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In the meantime along came an air-letter from Catherine saying, "I do hope you haven't used those tablets for they are not gibrel. I don't know what they are, I picked them off the shelf in haste." I, of course, had already written her on the results of the so-called gibberellic acid. Along came another letter assuring me that all would be well with the plants as the tablets she sent must have been aspirin. Disappointed though I was, I felt matters could have been worse if I had used the stuff on my choicest plants so accepted the fact that what is done cannot be undone.

Shortly afterwards I was overjoyed to receive a packet from Catherine and knew she had sent the leaves as promised to make up for her error; but, on opening the box, every leaf was blackened (it appears that she had done a spot of experimenting with packing material.) On the verge of tears, I again wrote and another box arrived containing plants which were very much damaged, but when trimmed up looked most promising. I am happy to relate that all are doing nicely at the moment.

You will be wondering if I threw away those aspirined plants. I didn't. For five weeks I gave them every care and attention and now they have rewarded me by throwing out new leaves from the base of the stem. Movement is very slow, the time of year no doubt, but better late than never. Four of the Saintpaulias to whom I gave a spoonful or two of the aspirin liquid just as an experiment, died completely.

I am now experimenting with the real stuff, but so far I don't think I am in favour of growing African violets with such long and delicate looking petioles, not to mention the other house-plants which must be suffering from growing pains. end

NOTICE

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AFRICAN GIRL—Large, fringed deep purple, single, girl.

ANN RUTLEDGE—Veined blue and white single flower, girl leaf.

BLUE PEAK GIRL—Dbl. purple Geneva flower, girl leaf.

CHARTREUSE LACE—Fringed single white with chartreuse edge.

CHIPPEWA—Fringed deep pink, very dark leaf.

DAY TIDE—Dbl. white with dark pink center.

DBL. PEACH BLOSSOM—Dbl. peach pink on very dark foliage.

FINE SWANK—Dbl. pink and blue combinations. Similar to "Swank" but far superior in growth.

FRINGED APPLE BLOSSOM—Dbl. fringed pink, lighter on edges.

FRINGED POM POM—Dbl. fringed lavender and white with excellent chartreuse edging.

GENEI—Very deep, bluish pink, fringed single, at times mottled with white.

HOLIDAY SPORT—Deeper pink colored sport of Holiday.

KIMBERLY—Dbl. powder puff blue with white edging.

LITTLE SWEETHEART—Dbl. fringed medium pink.

LONGFOLIA DBL. PINK—Deep dbl. fringed pink long dark wavy leaf.

LOVELY—Star shaped single white with pink center.

MARK ROBERT—Six petalled star flower, blue and white.

MENDOTA—Dbl. fringed medium lavender.

MY CHOICE—Large dbl. pink and white on girl foliage.

MY SIN—A real startler! Holiday color double, star shape flowers.

NANCY HANKS—Huge, fringed single light blue.

PINK BABYBREATHE—Semi-dbl. pink and white, girl foliage.

PINK GLAMOUR—Mammoth dbl. fringed medium pink.

PINK SEQUIN—Unusual purplish pink fringed single.

POP CORN—A miniature dark dbl. pink girl.

PRELUDE—Vigorous dbl. pink and white.

PRIMITIF—Huge single (star shape), Holiday color flower.

RUFFLED BI—Truly different! Single fringed purple and white with top petals lighter.

SILVER FLUTE—The albino "Holly" type foliage is outstanding.

SKY BLUE PINK—Dbl. variegated pink and purple on dark red backed, quilted foliage.

SPAN—Dbl. pink in the new star shaped flowers.

SPELLBOUND—Large mottled dark blue and white dbl. Comes true.

SPIC—Dark blue dbl. in the new "star shaped" flowers.

STAR PINK (new)—Deep single star pink on dark foliage.

STAR WHITE—Single star shaped white (with a trace of blue).

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TILLIE—Single star shaped lavender, large flowers.

VALLIN PINK PETTICOATS—Strong growing fringed single pink with chartreuse edge.

WARM WELCOME—Bi-colored lavender and white with top petals light.

PLEASE NOTE: To speed delivery, all orders are sent by first-class mail, using blocks of commemoratives. No orders are accepted under \$3.00, and on orders below \$5.00 please add 50¢ for postage and packing. Airmail is 50¢ extra up to a \$5.00 order and 5¢ more for each \$1.00 of the order above that. We guarantee safe delivery anywhere in the United States. All cuttings are labeled and true to name.

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WELL-MANNED SOCIETY SUCCESSFUL

Prudence Tasker Olsen, Seattle, Washington

bers, and visitors. Our horticultural talks, our demonstrations, pictures, and discussions make up a program interesting to all violet lovers, man or woman. And following this comes the social hour — coffee, cookies and the like, with much chatter and visiting, looking at some lovely violet displays and perhaps buying plants and leaves from the ways and means committee's table.

We have six men on our latest roll of officers. Moreover, when it comes to putting on our annual show or rearranging of chairs at our regular meetings, or — well, just visiting and comparing woman-grown violets with those strictly man-grown, the men are our stand-by and pride. (They "have a good time, too!")

The Seattle Saintpaulia Society is a happy, live, growing affair. We are fortunate as a society to be able to fraternize with the Seattle African Violet Society, a newer group than we, and with two societies in Tacoma.

We have a good and growing library. We cooperate with the Orthopedic Hospital and the spastic groups, furnishing many dollars worth of plants for annual sales and for bedside cheer to the patients in the veterans hospitals.

We shorten our business meetings by doing most of our business at the monthly board meetings, threshing out there the plans for each program, for forward look for the society, for ways to further improve it in the month and year ahead, closing, of course, with a social hour when the conversation is still principally "violets" in all their vagaries and needs, successes, failures, enemies and beauty.

The forum plan for violet larnin' is a favorite both in the regular meetings and the board meeting. Having commercial growers as members and officers, we manage to cop many a helpful suggestion free!

Though some of our members have other hobbies, like begonias and Siamese cats, they are loyal to the Seattle Saintpaulia Society, even though that name caused one of our city dailies to put the notice of our meeting among the church notices. end

Mr. Avery, president; Mr. Williams, education ch.; Mr. Aaron, show ch.; Mr. Hammond, secretary; Mr. Baylor, horticulture ch.; Mr. Hewitt, librarian; Mr. Carter, treasurer.

We often hear that for an organization to succeed it must be "well-manned." Look at our officers of last year and marvel not that we had interesting, well-attended meetings, and an outstanding spring violet show — withal, a successful year.

Nor did the officer-group absorb all of our man power. At our meetings we have men who are members, husbands of wives who are mem-

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REDDEST RED

PINKEST PINK

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NATURE'S WAY

Marie Dannemiller, Barberton, Ohio

In several previous articles I mentioned that I was no longer using natural ground limestone rock in the Organic Mix because I had been told it was unnecessary due to the high bone calcium and lime calcium content of Ruhm's natural phosphate rock, which is a basic ingredient of the mix. Some time ago I noticed several plants which had a row of undersized leaves, the next row was normal, and, in several, the following row was undersized again. I always mark any change, repotting, etc. on my labels, and, from the dates, began to wonder if there was a connection of some kind.

Some plants that had never bloomed responded when they were repotted. I then decided to take some plants out of their pots, dust a light coating of limestone on the inside, and then reset them. When they too began to bloom in a few weeks, the answer began to dawn on me.

I knew that different peats acted differently because of the acid reading, and a Pigeon friend had written that when peat is kept moist the acidity increases. Certainly this had happened in my case, for I had increased the peat content of the mixture as it was drying out so quickly. A correspondent in the east wrote that she followed the advice of Lela Burton on page 73 of the September 1957 African Violet Magazine and tried lime water on some of her plants that were acting like mine, and they started to improve.

Friends who used limestone from their driveways in the bottom of their pots and others who used oyster shells such as are fed to chicks, came to mind, and I remembered that they always watered from the bottom. Other friends, who used water which had been standing on uncooked egg shells, watered from the top. In every case their plants were always loaded with bloom.

In stories on the species in their natural habitat in Tanganyika, mention was always made of the limestone outcroppings in which the plants grew. The more I thought about it the deeper became my conviction that limestone was necessary to counteract the high acid content of the peat.

This conviction became a reality when Mr. Nixon, the Ruhm's representative, and Mr. Veith, our organic dealer from Cincinnati, called on me some time ago. I asked Mr. Nixon if their product changed the pH of the mixture and he said definitely not. Both men advised me to use the ground limestone rock again. See December 1956 African Violet Magazine, page 56.

Many of you met Mr. Veith at the Convention in Cincinnati last April and saw his display of organics. He and his company are very curious

Continued bottom next column

AFRICAN VIOLETS

"WHERE QUALITY COUNTS"

Plan to visit our greenhouse this Summer. Wholesale and retail. No shipping, no list. We sell Sponge-Rok and Atlas Fish Emulsion, also various other supplies.

Open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. week days.

Closed Sundays.

KOLB'S GREENHOUSES

725 Belvidere Road

Phillipsburg, N. J.

PAGE FROM A DIARY

This morning, following our monthly meeting of the Loyalist African Violet Society of New Brunswick, Canada, I am the proud recipient of eighteen blooming size violets and three new leaves, all generous gifts from our members. Some of these are prize plants which I'm sure were selected purposely by very generous donors.

This was a surprise "Shower of Violets" to help me restore those I'd lost in December when a faulty furnace transformer failed causing the temperature to drop below 40 degrees.

Ours may not be the largest club; but I think it's the greatest.

A grateful member.

about these African violets and the people who grow them, and he is still marveling at the things he saw and heard. I was happy that both men were permitted to see the show, and just wish everyone could have heard their wonderful comments. Both men are experts in their field and what they saw really impressed them.

One of Mr. Nixon's comments will make you smile, as it did me. "I just can't imagine people coming to a plant show such as this, all the way from Canada even; think what it must have cost them." He shook his head in wonder when I told him about those of you who come to the Conventions year after year from all parts of the United States, and, of course, Mr. Wicks' attendance from England. I've heard it said, and maybe he was thinking, "These violet people are crazier 'n anybody," but, golli-eee isn't it a nice kind of crazy?

MY FIRST BORN

Mrs. J. Frathel, Rochester, New York

Singing happily in my basement greenhouse (I always sing here), I decide that I like the lovely girl foliage of this plant but don't care too much for the blossoms. While their color is nice, they want to hide among the petioles with their heads down. Now that is no way for a violet to act. They should stand high and proud, for instance like this dainty Pink Miss.

What can I do about this? Carefully placing a small piece of white paper near the plants to be experimented with, I pick a dry yellow eye or pollen sac and place it on the paper. Then with a new razor blade, a small cut is made in the little sac to let the pollen fall out on the paper. Now for the plant with the nice foliage! I don't use a brush or fingernail but take up the paper with the pollen and gently rub the pistil of the blossom in the pollen dust. Then hopefully wait to see what happens.

After a few days, if the blossom drops off, I have high hopes for this is a good sign. Then more watching and waiting. At last the seed pod begins to form and swell. I sigh with relief. Then the long wait 'til the pod is ripe, turning brown and shriveling in size.

The day has come to plant my seeds. Since I had been warned they would be tiny, I'm nervous. So to be extra careful, the white paper is used again. But first the container must be prepared. I use plastic dishes that salads come in (so we eat lots of salads). These are filled three-fourths full of Terra-Lite, then watered with luke warm water. Left to stand and then the excess water is poured off.

Now for my seeds and again the razor blade comes in handy. As the pod is cut open, the seeds fall out onto the paper. My, they look

just like black pepper grains. I don't breathe for fear of blowing them away. Gently the paper is lifted and the seeds dropped onto the growing medium. The dish is closed after marking the date and parents of course. Then it is placed close to the light or a bright warm window. Again the waiting!

It seems forever but the time is really only about six weeks. When those first babies start growing, they really do grow very rapidly. Soon they are ready to separate. This is done very carefully so as not to lose even one small plant. However, if we only realized the number of plants we get from one seed pod, we wouldn't worry so.

One day I notice the foliage I want has favored me. This pot is kept moist and close to the light to hurry it. At last a dark looking bud appears. So maybe I have what I have been striving for. How that bud is watched. Finally it stands high and full. Surely by the next day it should open.

Before the next day dawns I am awake and wondering. Did it open? Would it be what I wanted, what I had waited so long to see? Might just as well get up, can't sleep anyway. I force myself to have a cup of coffee. Then, unable to restrain myself any longer, I dash down the cellar steps.

There it is, out full, just lovely, yet not quite what I wanted. But it is beautiful to me. My first born is a fully double, odd shade of blue.

Since then I have learned. One's dreams are not fulfilled on the first cross or even the second. But we all live and learn. What a wonderful experience to one who loves every minute of it.
end

ROOTED

AFRICAN VIOLET LEAVES

A Post Card From You To Me
Brings Our List By Return Mail

DOROTHY K. ATKINSON

1702 Grove Ave. North Chicago, Ill.

TENNESSEE PINK

Now Registered

There will be a 1st prize of \$15.00 for the best plant at the 1959 Convention and a 2nd prize of \$10.00.

Lovely blooming plants \$2.50 postpaid.

Rooted cuttings \$1.00 each.

No orders shipped for less than \$3.00.

This is truly a PINK Boyce Edens — the difference being that the clusters of very large deep pink blossoms are held well above the foliage on nice strong stems.

TENNESSEE BLUE: Companion plant to Tennessee Pink except blossom is a large deep blue. \$2.00 each postpaid. Blooming plants.

MRS. SAM O. NICHOLS

246 Madison Blvd. Madison, Tennessee

WHERE THERE'S A WILL ! !

Mrs. D. Shenton, West Bromwich,
Staffordshire, England

The following letter from one of the branch members was received by G. J. Wicks, Secretary of The First British Branch of the African Violet Society of America, who felt sure that Mrs. Shenton's letter would give reassurance to those who were not having much success with their plants.

"About my own facilities for growing young plants and seeds, they are rather unprofessional! I have a large north window in which stands a tea wagon, no longer used as such, and after lining the tiers with plastic and covering this with a layer of chips of gravel, I find it provides a humid base to hold a number of plants. The room has a convector heater and is usually about thirty degrees.

"I had already reached the conclusion that a single crown plant may be the ideal, but from the time I bought plants from you (April or May) this year, I could not destroy even a leaf. As a result, we have African violets in all stages of growth in all available spaces. Any pots which have grown over full I have emptied and split, and find that even small pieces without any root at all will quickly root if kept warm and humid. This I have achieved by placing about eight small pots in a plastic bowl, the bottom of which was covered with a layer of dampened gravel; the bowl covered with a piece of glass and just left alone. You, I am sure, can imagine the thrill of first finding these pieces firm in their soil. In fact, whenever I have divided a plant I have automatically put the divided plants into a bowl such as this to let them recover.

"We have recently acquired a greenhouse, but as this has been used for tomatoes and has a southern exposure, it has seemed too sunny and not humid enough for Saintpaulias. As I have now a large number of expendable plants, I shall experiment with them during the winter, and hope I shall not need to buy a new supply next spring.

"As I have had to give up golf during the last few months, I have found great pleasure and satisfaction in these exquisite flowers, and find them unbelievably accommodating.

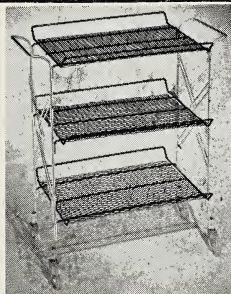
"I have used three parts J. I. potting soil and one part peat, and most of the varieties have flowered again after being divided and allowed to recover, but a few have sulked. Pink Cloud has grown into three eight-inch plants with excellent leaves, but the flowers have dropped at the bud stage, or if they opened any further have been pale, misformed and generally defective.

"After reading a book called "How to Grow African Violets", by Carolyn Rector, I have come to the conclusion that the potting soil may have contained too much fertilizer for the first feed of Liquinure hastened their sickness.

"Pink Wonder, however, has not increased at all but has gradually declined, and I have now cut off all the roots, most of the leaves, and am trying to root it in water. White Prince does not grow very well, but all the rest have grown, been divided, and are just coming again into flower.

"The first lot of seed I bought from you I divided, and planted the first part in a six-inch pot, put it in a warm cupboard and moistened it, but got no response, so threw it away. The second half germinated in a five-inch clay saucer and I have about twenty seedlings coming along without any sign yet of flowers. The second lot of seeds germinated in the kitchen in a seedpan, and I had about one hundred and twenty seedlings. These I transplanted (too early I think) into a concocted mixture of soil, bonemeal, sphagnum moss and peat, and put them into plastic boxes as advised in the book above, but I think they are damping off so I will buy new seeds and start again.

"My daughter and I are very much interested in making a collection of different varieties which we hope ultimately to house on a Floracart, or similar contraption, as advertised in the African Violet Magazine. We find it an engrossing hobby and hope we shall come through the winter without too much loss." end



NEW! TWO-TONE 3 TIER CART

Large capacity—Higher than most tables. Total height about 29½". Three extra large 18½" x 11½" brass shelves. Wrought-iron-black uprights, with large full swivel clear plastic casters. Ideal for magazines as well as plants and also makes a superb tea cart! Price: Only \$9.45 plus \$1.00 mailing charge. (\$1.50 west of Denver)

HARVEY J. RIDGE

1126 Arthur St. Dept. J84 Wausau, Wis.

THOUGHTS ABOUT AFRICAN VIOLETS

Winifred Crawford, Toledo, Ohio

Among the conditions leading to successful growing of African violets are sufficient light, water and a good loose soil. Downstairs all my windows have glass shelves for the violets. Upstairs the same is true, and, in addition, the large bedroom, which I never could make look cozy because of its size, has been changed into a violet room with fluorescent lights over three tables, each of which is five feet wide and twelve feet long. At first I had two daylight tubes in each fixture but now I am using one warm white and one daylight bulb as a pair. There is less tendency for some of the pink and white varieties to thicken their center leaves. Since my tables are so wide, my lights must be from fifteen to twenty inches from the tops of the pots, which is a little too far. To make up for this, I burn them about sixteen hours a day. One look at Calumet Beacon the last thing at night tells me that the violets are as ready for their night's rest as I am. In the morning the Beacon will be fresh and a pretty green again. If only I could recover as well!

Among my favorite varieties are the ones which have dark foliage, either ruffled, girl or plain. This dark, almost black foliage usually has red underneath which adds to its appeal. One thing of special interest to me is the difference in looks between the daylight plants and the

fluorescent ones. Among some of those which grow dark and beautiful by either light are Ann Rutledge, T.V. Stag Line and Patio Dance, Holly Halo, Lilac Time, Tonkadale's Pink Camellia, Bud's Pink Petticoats and Pink Cupid, Fischer's Rapture and Happiness. Among those which grow deeper and prettier under fluorescent light are Minnesota, Pink Ideal, Hill Music, Blue Nocturne and Fleur de Lis. Move these from daylight to fluorescent and watch the changed growth.

A few of the plants in the violet room are close to north windows and so get daylight as well. During the summer these plants will be literally loaded with flowers so I know that each kind of light is useful and together they combine to produce the most good to the plants.

Soil for violets must be rich, full of humus and porous enough for good drainage. I used to mix my own, sterilizing it of course for freedom from soil-borne troubles. Now, like all the other members of our Glass City African Violet Club, I am using Mrs. Dannemiller's organic mix formula called Nature's Way. We are not fanatic about the organic materials in it; we do know that we are growing bigger and better violets than ever before and that the organic is the reason. Also, most of us alternate a chemical fertilizer with an organic one. The organic mix has only one drawback. Plants in two and a quarter and three inch pots must be watered every day, if they are actively growing. I water each plant separately, first either looking at or feeling of the soil. Warm water, of course, and trying not to spill any on the foliage for fear of white marks as it cools.

Each plant is in its separate saucer, which is much to be preferred over placing them in trays of damp pebbles. By using common sense methods of propagation and care I have been able to free my violets from nematodes and keep them so.

As the time of the violet shows approaches I look more and more critically at my plants. My worst sin is crowding, and show plants must have room. The Amazons especially must grow right in the first place — training with tooth-picks is no good for them. A nick in a leaf looms large and I wish I had been more careful. America has been full of bloom all winter but now has slowed up and cannot go to the show. Dresden Dream is pouting. Her young flowers fall before they are full size; she must be objecting to the tiny amount of dust I used to protect from mildew. Will she be all right in two weeks? Why was it one of my favorites who showed damage?

But so it goes. We keep on trying and gain knowledge and so very much happiness through our consuming interest in our favorite plant.

end

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ORDER DIRECT
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Write for FREE samples for door prizes

SMITH POTTING SOIL CO.
2513 E. 19th St. Tulsa, Okla.

GROWING MEDIUM EXPERIMENTS

Sophie Bullock, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

In December 1956 I transplanted three small plants of Mary Thompson, which were the same size, from the two inch pots where they had been growing in African violet soil, into three inch pots.

One of the plants was put into the same soil.

The second plant was put into a mixture of one-half plain peat and one-half pulverized cow manure.

The third plant was put into all pulverized cow manure.

All three received one ounce of sodium selenate with VC-13 added.

The plants were put under two forty-watt daylight fluorescent lights for fourteen hours a day. They were fed every two weeks with either Fish Emulsion or more often with Kapco foliage feeding (one teaspoon to six quarts of water). They also were sprayed every two weeks with either Isotox M or Optox Special. Through the winter months they were sprayed daily with warm water to increase the humidity.

In March, suckers were removed from the plant in soil and from the plant in manure, but no suckers were on the plant in one-half peat and one-half manure. The plant in soil looked the best, then the plant in one-half soil and one-half manure; the plant in all manure looked too squatty.

The plant in one-half peat and one-half manure bloomed first on April 2, 1957.

The one in all manure started to bloom on April 19, 1957.

The one in soil started to bloom on April 23, 1957.

It is now May 25, 1957, and this is the account of how many blossoms each plant had so far:

The one in one-half peat and one-half manure had 28 blossoms.

The one in soil had 15 blossoms.

The one in manure had 14 blossoms.

Here is the account of how long the blossoms stayed on before turning brown:

One-half peat and one-half manure, average stay 25 days

Soil 20 days

All manure 18 days

The plant in soil looks more vigorous, has larger foliage, much larger blossoms, and the

flower stems are much longer. It has twenty-three leaves.

The plant in all manure comes next for looks. It isn't as squatty any more. It has twenty leaves.

The plant in one-half peat and one-half manure has much smaller foliage and the blossoms are average size.

This test certainly proves that we cannot have everything. If you look for quantity of bloom use one-half peat and one-half manure; if you look for quality of bloom use a good African violet soil.

Sorry I couldn't continue the test any longer because I went to Europe for two months. The plant in all manure gave up the ghost in August, but the other two plants are doing nicely.

end

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AFRICAN VIOLETS

or other flowers

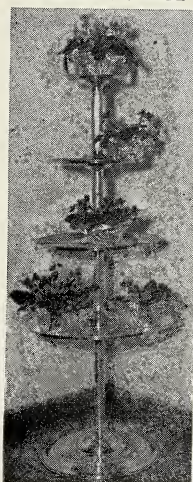
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36-inch height **\$22⁵⁰**
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EACH TRAY ROTATES
FREELY about center
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Plants can be
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without individual watering.



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10 3-inch pots. . . \$1.80
8 4-inch pots. . . 2.00
6 5-inch pots. . . 2.20

Sent postpaid. Add 25¢ set

postage west of Rockies.

These famous Squatty Pots, of

dark red clay, with their ex-

cellent porosity, are used and

recommended by Florists.

Specially treated edges help

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We will replace

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Box 59-AE

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Marie Dannemiller, Barberton, Ohio

Our personalized check blanks are sent through the mail in a pasteboard box which is enclosed in a rough outer box. This box is an ideal container in which to mail six to eight leaves to that very special friend.

Be sure you have firm, healthy leaves, not the spent outer ones. Wrap the end of each leaf in moist cotton, not soaking wet. Make a little bag of wax paper, just wide and long enough for the leaf to go in easily, staple it down the side and fold across the top. Attach a slip of paper showing the name of the leaf. The paper tag is best as sticks take up precious room.

In any size box, when shipping leaves, shredded paper is ideal to keep them from shifting around and being broken. end

"IF"

a poem for African Violet Lovers

IF you can grow your babies,
and yet not brag of it to those who don't
IF you can trust yourself to doctor soil,
and yet not criticize the dopes who won't
IF you can wait, and not be tired of waiting
for that silly plant that clean forgot to bloom
OF finding mites, not give way to hating, but
take your gun and spray the whole darn room,
IF you can love your violets,
and not let them be master
IF you can tend them lovingly,
and do your housework too
IF you can meet with triumph and disaster
and always know exactly what to do
IF you can lend your plants before you travel,
and have your trip without a single fear
THEN yours is the earth, and I salute you
and which is more —
You're telling lies, my dear!

Marilyn "K" Baxter
New Brunswick, Canada

1958

CONVENTION INTRODUCTIONS

1958

NAOMI'S HYBRIDS FEATURE

HUGE FLOWERS — 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ " to 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ " (and not Supremes)

HEAVY BLOOM — usually 2 flower stems per leaf

FREE GROWING — girls never "bunch"

EXCELLENT DARK FOLIAGE

We are ready — NOW — to ship these small PLANTS

(While supply permits. Shipments only in the States)

AFTERGLO: Brilliant red-red-pink dbl., beautiful girl foliage	\$2.00
BLUE CREPE: Crinkly, fringed, dark blue dbl. Wavy foliage	\$2.00
CAMEO: Frilly, unusual tu-tone pink single	\$2.00
FAIR LADY: Light pink dbl. on pointed girl foliage	\$1.50
GAY BLADE: Sparkling red-red-pink single, scooped foliage	\$1.50
JUBILEE: Unusual tu-tone pure pink dbl.	\$2.00
PINK DRIFT: Very bright pink dbl.	\$1.50
REMEMBRANCE: Dbl., orchid cast, pink on girl foliage	\$1.50
SNO BIRD: PURE white single on scooped foliage. Flowers never turn brown, and seldom fall	\$2.00
SWEETEST: Cupped, light pink, single on dainty girl foliage	\$1.50

Your \$10.00 choice\$ 9.00
Your 15.00 choice 13.50
Your 17.50 choice 15.00
Minimum order \$5.00. Under \$7.50 add 75¢
handling.

NAOMI'S AFRICAN VIOLETS

141 Holley St.

Brockport, N. Y.

PLANTS "EAT" NEW TYPE OF FLOWER POT

Vaughan's Garden Research Center

For several years, experienced gardeners have been curious about a new type of flower pot made of peat and fiber.

They found that greenhouse operators and garden centers were using these for growing tomato seedlings and bedding plants, as well as for starting bulbs and other types of plant material. However, these pots were not for sale at retail.

When transplanted, these started seedlings seemed to grow unusually well. They were set out, pot and all, without disturbing the root. Often when sold, the roots had already started to grow through the pot wall. As a result, the transplanted seedlings suffered no shock from transplanting. One man could drop seedlings into the holes about as fast as he could dig them, saving hours of labor in a good-sized garden.

No starter solution or transplanting fertilizer was needed because the plants fed on the pot itself. They needed no additional food to help them recover from transplant shock. In the garden, they grew even faster than when old-fashioned clay pots were used, and often matured a week or two earlier.

At first, two things prevented the sale of these pots to home gardeners. Supplies were so limited (they were imported from Europe) that commercial growers took all that were offered. Second, greenhouse supply firms discovered that amateurs unaccustomed to working with the thin-walled European type peat pot often tore them in ordinary handling.

Now, these peat-and-fiber pots are being made in America in a thick-walled version for home gardeners use. The major drawback of the old-time fiber pot — the quick exhaustion of food supply in the soil — has been overcome. By incorporating a slow-acting fertilizer in the pot itself, the Vaughan's Seed Company has developed a wall which keeps on feeding the plant for several weeks after it has been set out in the garden.

Peat-and-fiber pots present no special problems in their use: they are handled in exactly the same way as were old-fashioned clay pots, except that when the plant is ready to set out, the pot does not have to be removed. This preserves the fine mass of hair roots which was always pulled away by the clay pot wall in the old-fashioned type.

Use is not limited to bedding and vegetable transplants. African violet growers are dropping small plants in this type container, dropping them inside an ornamental pottery cover for display. Nurseries use peat-and-fiber pots to produce superior types of small shrubs and trees.

FEATURE ARTICLE ON VIOLETS BY MAIL

The March, 1958, issue of Popular Gardening magazine featured an illustrated article written by Mrs. Blanche Watson of Warsaw, N. Y. The article concerns the development of Henry Ten Hagen's mail order business in rooted leaves of African violets. During the past few years Mr. Ten Hagen of Warsaw has curtailed his local sales of plants and has concentrated almost entirely on his mail order business. His customers order from all of the forty eight states, the territories, and the Canadian provinces plus many foreign countries including England, Tanganyika, Australia, China, and most of the Central American and South American countries.

Mr. Ten Hagen concentrates on hybridizing and has developed many new and different African violet varieties during his seven years in the business. end

SOUTH DAKOTA'S leading African violet grower. 650 of the very latest varieties including Tonkadale's, Bud Brewer's and Sheldon Reed's.

Send stamp for list

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FRESH CUT LEAVES BY MAIL 25-50¢

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OVER 400 VARIETIES — Old and Newest

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GIBBERELIC ACID

Gibberellic acid is now available in easy-to-use tablet form. Dissolve ¼ or one tablet in accurately marked plastic squeeze bottle. One tablet will treat many plants. Accurate solution, no waste!

Full directions supplied with each order.
Package of 8 tablets plus spray bottle \$1.40 ppd.

8 tablets, only \$1.00. DEALERS: write for discounts.

HARVEY J. RIDGE

1126 Arthur St. Dept. J83 Wausau, Wis.

It is estimated that by 1959, most of the green plants (practically all house plants) grown in the United States will be sold in this type of container. Last Christmas, millions of poinsettias, Christmas begonias and other ornamental plants were started for this holiday in peat-and-fiber pots, at a tremendous saving in labor for commercial growers. end

LATE GREETINGS FROM MR. WICKS

G. J. Wicks, The Firs, Lambley, Notts, England

It is the last Sunday in 1957. The time is 5 I.p.m. and I have just written a notice to the members of the First British Branch of the African Violet Society of America, wishing them a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Within me an urge to write a New Year message to my friends in America cannot be stifled, though I know that in all probability it will be high summer when the print dries on the pages of the African Violet Magazine in which this may be printed. And, as a grower, I should prepare beforehand — but, as an artist, then I must work when the mood impels — so it is as the artist I appear and ask forgiveness for the grower.

In the December 1957 issue of the African Violet Magazine I tried to take you with me to that village in Leicestershire where lives our fellow member, Mr. E. Marriott. I know that some of my readers travelled with me for I have since heard from Mr. Marriott of kind friends in the U. S. A. who wrote him.

I have another story to tell. Will you tarry with me awhile and maybe visit with me? I may not be able to present this word picture as I should like, but forgive the incompetence of the writer and think only of the facts of life he tries to bring to you.

In Easter week this year I had a request from a lady in Gloucester, England, for an African violet to be sent to a hospital in Nottingham where a lady who had lost both her legs was being cared for. As I had business in that direction I made it a "personal" delivery to the hospital and included a plant from myself and some literature relative to African violets — mostly African Violet Magazines. I looked into the Ward when I had delivered the plants and decided there and then that this was another

site for an indoor Garden — mostly African violets with a fringe of contemporary house plants, illuminated with a two-foot fluorescent tube on enamelled wrought iron legs over a twenty-four by eighteen inch enamelled tray. This is a movable fitting, easily moved about, and one which gives much greater scope for growing African violets than any other available here. No sooner thought of than done. The Greenfinger Garden and its occupants now give pleasure to all the Ward inmates and visitors, Sisters, nurses and all. All enjoy the plants, and to the recipient they are like children.

So far I have not actually seen the lady in question. We write each other and I try to read "between the lines" and know that through the medium of African violets some small contribution towards happiness has been fostered. Three years in the hospital, to be waited on almost hand and foot, after an active life! Club golf, three times to Austria, climbing mountains, etc. (the same mountains I saw on my recent visit there and which we "climbed" in a Volkswagon!!) Do you read between the lines too? Can you visualise what plants and flowers mean to anyone who is so handicapped? I try to think I can, but, of course, I cannot. None of us can imagine with what yearning this lady watches a friendly cricket match on the hospital ground and thinks of a great Notts cricketer she used to go and watch at our Trent Bridge ground here in Nottingham. Do you wonder that I try to cheer her life with God's creations? Plants and flowers, and, of course, the donor is rewarded beyond measure. Try it and see!!

The letter I had from this lady congratulating my firm on winning the first ever Gold Medal for Saintpaulias at the Chelsea Show May 1957, was ample reward for any slight trouble I had been to. It was eloquent with good will. In case some of you would like to write to the lady in

W. C. Wicks Ltd. dis-

play at the 1957

Chelsea Show.



question, I send you her last letter dated 21st December 1957. It speaks for itself.

"December 21st.

Cavell Ward 5
Sherwood Hospital
Hucknall Road
Nottingham

Dear Mr. Wicks:

Very many thanks for the glorious flowering plants and flowers. I cannot thank you enough for your kindness and good wishes, they more than cheer the Ward up. I have always been fond of bulbs in bowls in the winter time, especially daffodils, they are so bright and cheerful, and the little pink plant is most attractive, am afraid I do not know its name, have seen it before.

Have been in hospital nearly three years, it seems a lifetime, but can get about in my wheel chair so must not grumble.

Best wishes and many thanks,

Yours sincerely,
SYBIL R. WARD"

As yet I have not had sufficient time to read the whole of the December issue of the African Violet Magazine, but I know that the Convention is being held in Rochester, New York, in April, and don't I wish I were to be there, but it is not to be this year though I have high hopes of coming over again either in 1959 or 1960. These trips, I know from experience, require considerable thought and preparation and it is my earnest hope that my wife will be able to accompany me when I come again to the U. S. A. To be able to share the thrill will double the pleasure. We look forward to our visit — I shall never forget my last one — and I know that at a number of homes throughout the U. S. A. "the door is on the latch."

I feel that I have neglected my friends over there this past year. It has been a busy one and I have spent rather a long time at the therapist's for treatment this past nine months. Progress has been slow but I am definitely better and hope for complete recovery in time. In addition, there have been the African violet shows and our usual busy seasonal rushes. Christmas comes before you realise it, and then it is the New Year, taking stock and seeing to the thousand and one things in a general nursery. I can assure all my friends that they are constantly in my thoughts, and my thoughts of them are kindly ones indeed.

Although our new lists will not be available until March, we already have quite a lot of requests. Our sales this year have exceeded 1956 by roughly fifty percent, and more glass will have to be erected to cope with the increased demand, fostered, no doubt, by the excellent plants sent out and "service after sales." We still see the Saintpaulia brought into disrepute by the sales in November and December of spring sown hybrids — and in some cases named plants. These invariably give their owners a headache before wilting away, and lead to the declaration, "If that's African violets, then no more for me," not realising that they are an in and out of season plant that requires certain fundamentals

ZEE VIOLETTE

Sometimes I get
So tired yet
Of zee violette,
Zee lov-a-lee African violette.
I water, feed;
To tell zee need
Jus' right indeed —
It gets me down, dose violette!
I brush zeir clothes
I spray zeir nose, —
No flu shall chose
To catch zee tender violette —
I keep zem warm,
Away from harm
Of winter storm;
I wear zee charm
Around my neck for zee violette.
Zee soil I buy —
Zee price, so high!
So zen I try
Zee smelly leetly bugs to bake.
Such pains for you I have to take!

What more to do,
Sweet plants, for you,
White, purple, blue,
And pink ones too,
To save zee life of Violette?
I read zee book;
Zee paper took
And through heem look;
I go to Club and questions speak:
Zee water gif — once, twice a week?
Zee heat? Zee soil?
Zee "midnight oil?"
Zee kind of light?
So near? So bright?
Zee size of pot?
Zee sing for do for ol' root-rot?
Zee sing for bloom?
For leaves, — zee room?
How warm zee drink? —
Till zee members sink
My questions — er — ah — well, zay smell!

Ah, leetly plant, so dear! Poor I —
So hard! — I try
Like noble, Know-how greenhouse guy,
Zee every gripe to satisfy.

And Zen —

you die!

Prudence Tasker Olson
Seattle, Washington

to succeed. We try to teach them the simple essentials and elementary rules.

We find the honest policy pays the largest dividend from the ever mounting number of friends we have made. end

REGISTRATION REPORT . . .

Constance Hansen, Registrar, Box 302, Lafayette, California

PART I

The following applications have been received during the period from December 1, 1957, to April 8, 1958.

PLANT AND REGISTRANT

ANONYMOUS (974) WV58dS, 12/15/57, Mae A. Kestranek, 4311 Cullen Dr., Cleveland 5, Ohio.
DOUBLE CLARISSA HARRIS (975) P58dS, DRESDEN DANCER (976), P59dfS, DRESDEN GLORY (977) P59sfS, DRESDEN LACE (978) W59dfS, SILVER WAVES (979) W59sfS, SWEET SONG (980) P39dS, WHITE ANGEL (981) W23dS, WHITE DREAM (982) W39dS, 12/23/57, Mrs. Elmer Lakin, 2112 E. Taylor, Bloomington, Illinois.
FAIRE (983) P69dS, INVADER (984) P9dcS, 2/1/58, Lyndon Lyon, Dolgeville, New York.
DOUBLE PINK FIRE (985) P35dfS, 3/5/58, Mrs. Geo. S. Vallin, 2455 Hayes Lane, Beaumont, Texas.
NORMA (986) RX46sL, 3/6/58, Phyllis W. Seeley, 5 Morgan Ave., Norwalk, Connecticut.
BLUE FLAG (987) B8scS, CAMELLIA (988) P4dS, MARK ROBERT (989) BC8scS, MY SIN (990) P8dcS, RASPBERRY PINK (991) P8dcS, SPAN (992) P8dcS, SPIC (993) B8dcS, STAR PINK (994) P8scS, TILLIE (995) O8scS, 3/10/58, Lyndon Lyon, Dolgeville, N. Y.
BEHNKE'S MARTHA WASHINGTON (996) P4dS, BEHNKE'S DOLLY MADISON (997) P26dS, SWEET REFRAIN (998) P2dS, 3/10/58, Behnke Nurseries, Washington-Baltimore Blvd., Beltsville, Maryland.
ORGANDY (999) W2dL, 3/25/58, Mrs. Chauncey Olson, 120 East Riverglen Dr., Worthington, Ohio.
NAOMI'S AFTERGLO (1000) RP4dS, NAOMI'S SNO BIRD (1001) W8sS, 3/30/58, Naomi's African Violets, 141 Holley St., Brockport, N. Y.
HARRIETT (102) X6sS, 3/31/58, Claude Gortatowsky, 2772 Normandy Dr., N.W., Atlanta 5, Georgia.
DAISY BELLE (1003) B46sfL, KAW VALLEY CHANTICLEER (1004) DB46sL, K.V.DELFT BLUE (1005) B6sL, K.V. DOGWOOD (1006) W046sL, K.V. KANSAS CITY CHILD (1007) R46sL, K.V. SPRINGTIME (1008) W046sL, K.V. STORM GIRL (1009) B46sS, 4/5/58, Mrs. C. E. Miller, Tonganoxie, Kansas.
PINK WAVERLY (887) P5sL, 3/16/57, Mrs. C. H. Harris, 757 Athens Blvd., Los Angeles California.
This variety was published in the 1956-57 Registration list, but not in the June 1957 magazine.
The following names bear the prefix: GRANGER GARDENS: G.G. ARROWHEAD (1010) BW39sS, G.G. AUTUMN MOON (1011) BW39dS, G.G. BLUE ELECTRA (1012) B8dS, G.G. BLUE EMPRESS (1013) BW4sS, G.G. BLUE POM (1014) B6dS, G.G. DOUBLE EDITH CAVELLE (1015) O5dfS, G.G. DROPS O' WINE (1016) RX38dS, G.G. EBB TIDE (1017) BW39sS, G.G. MATCHMATE (1018) B5dS, G.G. PURPLE PRINCESS (1019) V4sS, G.G. ROYAL NOCTURNE (1020) B6dL, G.G. ROSE WING (1021), WR6sfL, G.G. SEPTEMBER SONG (1022) B5dfS, G.G. WHITE GOLD (1023) W6sfL, 4/7/58, Granger Gardens, R. 2, Medina, Ohio.
TENNESSEE PINK (1024) P28sS, 5/1/58, Mrs. Sam Nichols, 246 Madison Blvd., Madison, Tenn.
ALETHA MARTIN (1025) BW5dfL, ANNALACEA (1026) B56dL, CHIEF BURNETT (1027) B5dL, DIANNE KAHLER (1028) PW26dS, DOROTHY JEAN (1029) WC5dL, JOAN (1030) W5sfS, LACY FRINGE (1031) W5dfS, MAMIE (1032) W5dfS, McGINTY (1033) B4dS, McTAVISH (1034) B5dfL, MILDRED (1035) BX5sS, STRANGER (1036) WB5sL, 4/16/58, Kahler Garden, 1457 E. 14th St., Des Moines, Iowa.

PART II

The following name reservations have been received:

Trocadero, Tropicana Pink, Dancing Colors, Pink Pride, Bonne Foi, Blue Bonus, Starlight, Swank-y, Pink Tea, Satellite, Double Pink Mirror, White Holly, Cockatoo, Sno Glo, Flora, Pot Pourri, Purple Pioneer, Oregon Pioneer, Pioneer Mother, Williamette, Emme Rittel, Frivol, Southern Belle, King Size, Party Dress, Beau Catcher, Eye Catcher, May Magic, Kaw Valley May Time, Kaw Valley Queen, Shasta, Dainty Bess, Candy Cane, Kansas Queen, National Velvet, Calypso, Cha Cha Cha, Monique, Forty-niner, Dresden Cloud, Double Innocence.

NOTE:

The key to the code description after each registration number is to be found at the head of the registration list published in the Member's Handbook for 1957-1958. The code is not intended to serve as a description of a variety, but merely to indicate in a general way the color and type of flower, leaf type, and size of plant. The same code may apply to plants which vary greatly in other characters not covered by the code.

Two new characteristics of flower and leaf not covered in the printed code are star-shaped flowers and the spider or longfolia leaf type. The small letter (c) will be used to indicate star-shaped flowers, and the number (1) will indicate longfolia or spider type leaves. end

HOW TO DIVIDE A PLANT

Mrs. Corine Bouvy, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan

When I moved from Wisconsin to Michigan, I disposed of all my violets, selling some and giving some away. At that time I promised myself I would not get involved again in the growing of African violets. But, lo and behold, when visiting at a friend's house and seeing all her pretty, blooming violets, I could not resist accepting the plant she offered me. It had to be divided, which gave me several plants, and it wasn't long after that when I bought myself a few more. I think I will always be faithful to a few — a white, a pink, a blue and a purple, double or single does not matter.

To divide a plant, I first let it dry out as much as possible, then I push the plant out of the

pot. Next I carefully loosen all the soil from the roots, at the same time being very careful and gentle with the intertwined leaves, so that they will not be broken.

After checking the root system of each separated plant, those that have plenty of roots are potted in suitable size pots, those with few roots are put in glasses of water for a few weeks until new roots develop.

Having been very successful with plastic pots with a wick in the center, I plant all the newly separated plants with good root systems in these plastic wick-fed pots.

After the dividing, a plant does not always look pretty as the outer leaves are long; having too much stem. These I break off, which makes a nice looking, smaller plant, and then with the right light and proper watering the plant grows beautifully. end

FLORALITE FEATURES

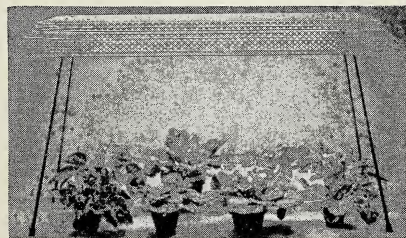
For the First Time the Floralite Cart, an attractive indoor greenhouse with Lustrous Hi-Impact Polystyrene Trays. These 2½ inch deep plant trays never rot, rust or corrode. Available in two or three tier models with adjustable height Fluorescent or Dualite Fixtures. Tiers are 22 in. wide and 48 in. long. Cart has large, rubber, ball bearing casters. Send for complete information and prices.



ing. 48 in. Fluorescent Light, 13 in. reflector, 2-40 watt tubes, cord and plug. \$11.50 plus \$2.50 for postage and packing. 2 year guarantee on ballasts.

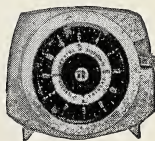
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WELCOME RETURN

Mrs. Fred D. Garrett, Shreveport, Louisiana

I have quite a collection of African violets, and frequently people stop by to see them; and many times these people are strangers to me.

I think the nicest visit I ever had was from a sweet young lady who rang my door bell the other day and asked if she could come in and talk to me.

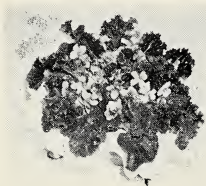
She told me that she had come with a friend of hers to see my violets and had "stolen" a leaf. She had taken the leaf home, rooted it, and it grew into a beautiful plant which came into bloom in about ten months. She said it was so beautiful and it seemed to do something to her every time she looked at it. Finally, the plant bothered her so much that she became a Christian and later joined the Church.

The young lady had come to offer me \$1.00 for the leaf, which, of course, I could not take. It made me feel good to think she had realized her mistake, all through the beauty of an African violet. She had brought the plant to show to me, and it was a beautiful blooming plant of the New Alma Wright. end

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NEW PLANTS FROM LEAVES

Miriam Lightbourn, Bernardsville, N. J.

Growing African violets from leaves is not difficult and it is certainly fascinating to watch for the tiny babies to appear and then see them grow.

To start, one needs full-sized, firm leaves, but not the outer leaves of the plant as they have almost lived out their lifetime. The leaves are cut on a slant with a sharp knife, and about one and one-half inch of stem is left on the leaf blade.

Two or three leaves can be started in one glass of water (use rain water if the tap water is hard or highly chlorinated.) First, place a piece of aluminum foil over the top of the glass, then make holes in which to insert the leaves. Place the glass where it will receive good light but not sunlight. Water should be added as needed so that the stems are in water at all times.

Some varieties will start more quickly than others, but after roots form, watch for little plants to develop. When these tiny plants appear, the leaves should be potted.

A two and one-quarter inch sterilized clay pot is the ideal size for a started leaf. A good mixture in which to plant a started leaf consists of four parts of sterilized soil and one part of vermiculite. Place the mixture in the pot, lay the roots over it, fill the pot gradually, and gently press the soil firm around the leaf stem. The cut end of the stem and some of the new leaves will be below the soil surface. Sometimes all the tiny plants that show around the leaf will die off, but if the mother leaf remains crisp, new plantlets will appear. These potted leaves should be placed in a bright but not sunny spot.

As soon as the little plantlets grow to be one and one-half inches tall, they should be separated and placed in individual pots, using the same soil mixture as for the started leaves. If the soil is allowed to get on the dry side before the plantlets are divided, you will find that the roots will untangle and separate very easily.

It may be anywhere from six months to over a year from the time the leaf is cut and started until the new plant is ready to bloom, depending on the variety. end

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TWO-SPOTTED SPIDER MITES A VIOLET MENACE

Carol Girgus, Somerville, New Jersey

Spider mites are very small, varying in size from the thickness of a sheet of paper to a grain of sand. Often times what appears to be sand from the soil which is clinging to pots is really spider mites, and a slight nudge will start them moving. In some cases webs will be spun among the leaves, indicating spider mites are present.

Adult spider mites have eight legs, the young have six. They may be reddish, greenish or yellowish in color. The adult females are yellowish in color, and live through the winter in protected places, one of these places being on Saintpaulias. Spider mites develop from egg to adulthood in a week or ten days, and increase readily on moist clay pots.

Spider mite injury is indicated by rusty brown spots or brown irregular areas that start appearing around the edges of leaves on the undersurface. As the injury advances, damage may also be seen on the stems and buds, and the leaves will turn rusty and drop off. This is sometimes mistaken for rust disease. A dilute solution of sodium selenate was the treatment I used against two-spotted spider mites. This method is one capsule of selenate to one gallon of warm water, watered into the soil in prescribed amounts as recommended by Neil Miller. Since selenate needs time to be absorbed by the plants to be effective, it was necessary to use a dipping solution to kill existing spider mites. For this dip, Dimite was used — one teaspoon of Dimite with two tablespoons of Ivory soap flakes in one gallon of warm water, beaten well. The plants were inverted and immersed in the dip, the soil being held in the pot with the fingers. After all the plants had been immersed and set aside, another teaspoon of Dimite was added to the mix and then the pots were scrubbed to remove any pests and their eggs that remained. Rubber gloves were worn throughout these procedures.

No more spider mites have made their appearance since the preceding treatment, which was done in August of 1957; and no plant injury has been indicated. Sodium selenate has now become a routine procedure every five months.

I hope that other Saintpaulia hobbyists who may have a similar encounter with two-spotted spider mite will be interested in the treatment I used, and in the outcome of my experiences. end

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SHOW News and Views

Eunice Fisher, Route 3, Box 168, Oshkosh, Wisconsin

● **THE AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB OF GREATER KANSAS CITY**, held its eighth annual show at the Little Theatre of the Municipal Auditorium on February 22-23, 1958. The show theme was "Violets Are Up-To-Date in Kansas City." An Educational exhibit was set up and presided over by Mrs. W. A. Hartman and Mrs. Frank H. Morgan with instructions on propagation and "How to Grow Violets Up-To-Date."

In the amateur division, "Best Plant in the Show" honors went to Mrs. W. K. Myers, Kansas City, Kansas. This was a gorgeous plant of Calumet Beacon, twenty-four inches across. Mrs. John T. Buckner, Pleasant Hill, Missouri, was runner-up with a plant of Sir Lancelot.

Mrs. Buckner took sweepstakes honors with eighteen blue ribbons and Mrs. Myers was runner-up with twelve blue ribbons. The National Gold Award went to Mrs. Buckner for her three plants; Fischer's Fire Dance, Rippling Rhythm and Confederate Beauty. Mrs. Myers took the Purple Award for her plants of Ruffled Queen, Double Neptune, and Evelyn Johnson. Best of class ribbons were won by Mrs. George Pendleton, Roy Roby of Kansas City, Missouri; Miss Betty Calvert, Ft. Smith, Arkansas; Mrs. Leighton Fossey, Mound City, Kansas; Mrs. Maxine Mason, Siloam Springs, Arkansas; Mrs. W. K. Myers, Kansas City; and Mrs. John T. Buckner, Pleasant Hill, Missouri.

The award for the best seedling exhibited and the trophy for the best commercial exhibit went to Mrs. Lutie Dunlap, Kansas City, Missouri. The award for the best new variety offered for sale at the show went to Mrs. Sam O. Nichols, Madison, Tennessee, for her Tennessee Pink.

Judges for the amateur division were Mrs. W. W. Schrenk, Manhattan, Kansas; Mrs. W. S. Seizer, Warrensburg, Missouri, and W. A. Smithson, Kansas City, Missouri. Mrs. R. O. Whitaker and Mrs. Frank H. Morgan, Kansas City, Missouri, and Mr. Smithson served in the commercial division.

● **THE UPPER PINELLAS AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF DUNEDIN, FLORIDA**, held a violet show for its members at the home of Mrs. E. J. Conley, 1670 Bay Shore Blvd., Dunedin, on February 10, 1958. Mrs. David E. Buchta, Racine, Wisconsin, and Haines City, Florida, acted as judge of the show.

Mrs. Henry Whitesell of Largo, Florida, won first prize for the best plant in the show. Blue ribbons went to Mrs. Whitesell for several other entries, and to the following: Mrs. Paul Eberly, Mrs. E. J. Conley, Mrs. Helen Mueller, Mrs. Malcolm Stone, and Mrs. W. T. Merrill.

The Upper Pinellas African Violet Society has been invited to show plants at the annual Clearwater Garden Clubs show March 10-11th. Mrs. Paul Eberly, Mrs. Malcolm Stone, and Mrs. Henry Whitesell will be in charge.

● **THE EAST SUBURBAN AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB OF EAST DETROIT, MICHIGAN**, held its first competitive African violet show December 1, 1957, at the South Mecombs Y. M. C. A., East Detroit, Michigan. Mrs. Joseph Gray served as show chairman, Mr. Harry McMillan as co-chairman. Mrs. R. Reaume, Mrs. A. Foster and Mrs. J. Gray served as judges.



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● **THE TOWN AND COUNTRY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB OF HOUSTON, TEXAS**, held its second annual violet show February 9, at the Hermann Park Garden Center. The theme of the show was "Living With Violets." Mr. James Talk served as chairman of the show. Entries were from members only, but the show was open to the public and more than five hundred people attended.

Sweepstakes prize went to Mrs. G. T. Grissom for the largest number of awards. Her plant of Melody won Best of the Show, and her Danska Doll won best miniature. Mrs. Eugene A. Smith's Black Fringe was judged the largest plant, and her arrangement Drifting and Dreaming with pink and white double blossoms, driftwood and white swans, took the ribbon in that class. Mr. Harold Geis put in an educational exhibit that showed all stages of propagation.

● Violets in Reflection was the theme for the fifth annual show given by the **INDIANAPOLIS AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, #1, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA**, held at the Marott Hotel on October 26-27th, 1957.

At the luncheon held on October 26, Mrs. Alma Wright, editor of the National African Violet Magazine, official publication of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., gave an interesting and instructive account of her work in putting the magazine together. Mr. Don Wilson was speaker at the brunch on Sunday, October 27th. His was an amusing talk on the differences between growing African violets in a greenhouse and in the home.

Due to the interest in the Indiana State African Violet Society and the publicity by the various newspapers, TV, and radio, the attendance was the largest in the history of the club. Mrs. Marguerite Smith, Garden Editor of the Indianapolis Times, was especially helpful with articles of interest concerning the show. One hundred seventy-six plants from thirty exhibitors were entered in the competitive show.

Mrs. Herman Hedrick of Kokomo, Indiana, won a silver cup with Purple Princess which was Queen of the Show. Mrs. C. D. Monger of Indianapolis was awarded Sweepstakes for ten blue ribbon winners. Mrs. F. E. Glass won the Golden Award of Merit for her outstanding display depicting the theme of the show. A special \$10.00 award was given to Mrs. Joseph Frost by the Hoosier Soil Service for the largest plant which was Double Ruffles. Miss Alma Heintz and her sister, Marie, won a special \$10.00 award from Wilson Brothers for their Double Hoosier Pink.

Judges for the show were Mrs. Albert Baumunk, Mrs. C. H. Bradshaw and Mrs. M. P. Brokaw. General show chairman was Mrs. C. D. Monger, and Mrs. John Pope is president. end

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RE: PEAT

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Peat is organic matter which releases beneficial bacteria and increases the capacity of the soil to retain moisture. When mixed with soil, it provides the correct physical conditions for plants. It binds together light soil, loosens heavy soil, and allows fertilizer to be more effective. It is recognized as the most valuable organic matter obtainable.

While peat is not considered a fertilizer, it lacks potash and phosphorus, gardeners should understand the value of organic matter. Bacteria and fertilizers can not become effective unless the organic matter is renewed in the soil.

There are two common types of peat. Peat moss or sphagnum is usually imported and comes dried out. It is low in nitrogen, but when properly prepared will hold moisture. Sedge peat, produced in America, is dark brown, comes rather damp, and has a rather high nitrogen and bacteria content. end

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A new plant quarantine inspection station has been opened at the New York International Airport at Idlewild for the convenience of business firms and persons authorized to import plants and propagating material. This will make possible clearance of the imports in as little as three hours after arrival from abroad. Previously, incoming plant shipments had to be trucked in bond from Idlewild to Hoboken, New Jersey, to the plant quarantine house for processing, a procedure which often consumed three days. Importers will thus save money and time, moreover the risk of insect pests escaping during the trip has been eliminated.

At the present time air cargoes of plant material arrive at Idlewild at the rate of 400 to 600 a day, with the volume steadily increasing. During the past twelve months, 18,859 arriving passenger planes were inspected. Unauthorized material was found on 13,892 of them. Keeping out dangerous insect and disease enemies is a continuing job. end

MILDEW

While mildew does not kill African violets, it is most disfiguring and mars the plant's appearance.

Until recently the generally accepted product to check mildew was powdered sulphur, used either as a dust or as a wet spray.

Several new preparations are now available that are recommended for mildew control, and among these are actidione, karathene, mildex and zinc carbamate.

As in all cases if you are using a new spray, do observe all directions most faithfully. end

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African Violets and Supplies

Sixty illustrated pages of newest African Violets and unusual and hard-to-find supplies, equipment and accessories. Everything you need for African Violets, Gloxinias, Geraniums, Azaleas, all greenhouse and indoor plants. Potting mixes and plant foods, large aluminum plant stands, fluorescent lights, etc. Largest selection any catalog specializing in African Violet supplies and equipment for indoor plants and greenhouses. Send now for your free copy.

THE HOUSE PLANT CORNER

P. O. Box 963

Oxford, Maryland

NEW AFFILIATED CHAPTERS

Maxine Wangberg, Chairman, 303 South Central Avenue, Harlowton, Montana

NEW ALBANY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, INDIANA, Mrs. Martha McClure, president, 2646 Hoover Ave., New Albany, Indiana
FRANKLIN COUNTY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, MISSOURI, Mrs. William Feldmiller, president, New Haven, Missouri
VIOLET SUNSET CHAPTER OF THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF BAY COUNTY, FLORIDA, Mrs. Lucille Wasson, president, 1215 Franklin Ave., Panama City, Florida
FAIRFIELD AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, CALIFORNIA, Oneta Zirkle, president, 1445 West Kentucky Street, Fairfield, California
PERU AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, INDIANA, Mrs. Tom Scott, president, 462 East Fifth Street, Peru, Indiana
UNCLE SAM AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, NEW YORK, Mrs. Thomas Carey, president, 170 Sixth Ave., Troy, New York
ST. CLAIR COUNTY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, ILLINOIS, Mrs. Harry King, president, 225 Hazel Ave., East St. Louis, Illinois

Dear Affiliated Chapter Members:

Listed below are the clubs who have 100% National membership. If your club has 100% National membership and has not been listed, please write and notify me of your club's status.

DAVENPORT AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, #1, IOWA, Mrs. Hulda Meyer, president, 1902 Main, Davenport, Iowa
DAVENPORT AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY #2, IOWA, Mrs. G. F. Perlick, president, 3123 E. Kimberly Road, Davenport, Iowa
SAINTPAULIA STUDY CLUB, ATLANTA, GEORGIA, Mrs. A. W. McCormick, president, 1362 Everhart Street, S.W., Atlanta, Georgia
PLYMOUTH AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, INDIANA, Mrs. John Yokum, president, Box 12, Lapaz, Indiana
TOWN AND COUNTRY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, NORTH DAKOTA, Mrs. John Holback, president, Route 2, Minot, North Dakota
RALEIGH AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, NORTH CAROLINA, Mrs. Russell E. Wood, president, 104 North Lord Ashley Road, Raleigh, North Carolina
PHOENIX AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, ARIZONA, Mrs. S. R. Stevens, president, 120 West Missouri Ave., Phoenix, Arizona
CLEVELAND SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY, OHIO, Mrs. Henry A. Loesch, president, 22286 West Lake Road, Rocky River, Ohio
ROCK ISLAND AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, #1, ILLINOIS, Mrs. Stanley Barta, president, 2319 — 24½ Street, Rock Island, Illinois
STAR GLOW CHAPTER, FORT WAYNE, INDIANA, Mrs. Mary Borkenstein, president, 1421 Oxford Street, Fort Wayne, Indiana
AMETHYST AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, MISSOURI, Mrs. Thelma Usinger, president, 1020 E. Oakland Ave., Webster Groves, Missouri
CINDERELLA AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, MISSOURI, Mrs. L. Fortin, president, 4094 Haven St., St. Louis, Missouri
CLEMENTINE AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, MISSOURI, Mrs. Dorothy Schaan, president, Route 1, Eureka, Missouri
COUNTY BELES AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, MISSOURI, Mrs. R. J. Kitchell, president, 38 So. Rock Hill Road, Webster Groves, Missouri
FRANKLIN COUNTY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, MISSOURI, Mrs. Wm. Feldmiller, Route 1, New Haven, Missouri
GREATER ST. LOUIS AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, MISSOURI, Mrs. Henry J. Heideman, president, 5316 Neosho St., St. Louis, Missouri
HOLLY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, MISSOURI, Mrs. Theresa Eisenbeis, president, 4820 Lemay Ferry Road, Lemay, Missouri
KNIGHTS & LADIES AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, MISSOURI, Mrs. Askel Gander, president, 9665 Lilly Jean Drive, Overland, Missouri
NORMANDY-IONANTHA AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, MISSOURI, Mrs. Daniel Dohm, president, 7358 Milan Ave., University City, Missouri
RAINBOW AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, MISSOURI, Mrs. Martha Ann Williams, president, 10542 Repose, St. Louis, Missouri
ST. CLAIR COUNTY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, ILLINOIS, Mrs. Harry King, president, 225 Hazel Ave., East St. Louis, Missouri
VIKING AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, MISSOURI, Mrs. J. H. Lincoln, president, 6342 Garesche Ave., St. Louis, Missouri
WEBSTER GROVES AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, MISSOURI, Mrs. T. P. Dale, president, 4 Angest Circle, Webster Groves, Missouri
GLASS CITY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, OHIO, formerly the Sunshine Saintpaulia Society, Mrs. R. C. Mathewson, president, Hertzfield Road, Waterville, Ohio
AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF SPRINGFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA, Mrs. John L. Ricker, 300 Sylvan Ave., Norwood, Pennsylvania
CRUSADER AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF DELAWARE VALLEY, PENNSYLVANIA, Mrs. John L. Ricker, president, 300 Sylvan Ave., Norwood, Pennsylvania
AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF SONOMA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, Mrs. Joseph Craig, president, 3495 Spring Creek Drive, Santa Rosa, California
HARMONY AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, IDAHO, Mrs. C. O. Miller, president, 5000 Bel Air, Boise, Idaho
SUNSHINE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, COLORADO, Mrs. Lady Cook, president, 720 Canosa Court, Denver, Colorado
SNOWMOUNTAIN AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, WASHINGTON, Mrs. Paul Lunbom, president, 802 S. 35th Avenue, Yakima, Washington

The September issue will carry a full report of the workshop meeting at the Rochester Convention and what we were able to accomplish there. Please keep in mind that dues for your club members are payable through your club treasurer, who in turn sends them directly to me. A large quantity of mail pertaining to the Affiliated Chapters is still being sent to the Knoxville office which makes more work as well as delays the memberships.

Cordially,
Maxine Wangberg



Club NEWS

MAXINE WANGBERG

303 South Central Avenue, Harlowton, Montana

Deadline dates for Club News contributions: For September issue, June 1st; for December, September 1st; for March, December 1st; for June, March 1st.

PARMA'S FIRST AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, PARMA, OHIO, brought its first year to a close with a most unusual Christmas party. Instead of the customary exchange of gifts, each guest brought a white elephant. Can you imagine how a man's nightshirt, worn shoes, sardines wrapped in a lovely candy box, to mention a few, stimulated conviviality and conversation? The party was simply a riot, and a fitting end to a wonderfully educational and enjoyable year; a year planned specifically around the fundamentals of growing good violets.

This year's program will cover the various phases of growing and exhibiting show plants, for our first show is scheduled for October 17, 18 and 19 at the Garfield Floral Company in Independence, Ohio.

If you should be in the vicinity of Cleveland at that time, we cordially invite you to see our exhibits.

New club officers are: president, Mrs. Gale Davies; vice-president, Mrs. Henry Lessman, Jr; secretary, Mrs. Martin Kress; and treasurer, Mr. John Heine.

THE RED RIVER VALLEY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB OF FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA, AND MOORHEAD, MINNESOTA, elected the following officers for the coming year: president, Mrs. C. A. Running; vice-president, Mrs. E. A. Halgeson; secretary, Mrs. C. J. Bowman; and treasurer, Mrs. J. L. Goeson.

The December meeting of **THE CHENANGO VALLEY AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, NEW YORK**, was held at the home of the president, Mrs. Marion Salisbury, on December 28, 1957. At a short business meeting some changes in the by-laws were recommended by the chairman, and the changes were approved.

The remainder of the meeting was the usual Christmas party and exchange of gifts. The president presented everyone with a small new plant. A very pleasant social evening was spent by all present.

Delicious refreshments were served by the hostess and co-hostess, Mrs. Anderson and Mrs. Ruth Burdick. The January meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Burdick.

THE SCHOHARIE VALLEY AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, NEW YORK, held its annual meeting on October 24, 1957, with the following officers elected for the coming year: president, Mr. Charles Wicks; vice-president, Mrs. Laura Vincent; secretary, Mrs. Marjorie E. Rose; treasurer, Mrs. Alice Hynds.

At this meeting the annual show date was set for Saturday May 3, 1958. It will be held at the Cobleskill Grade School, Cobleskill, N. Y.

THE URBAN-SUBURBAN AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB OF ILLINOIS was organized in March of 1957 to afford a convenient and beneficial association of persons actively interested in the African violet; to stimulate interest in the propagation and culture of violets and to encourage the origination of improved varieties. Since then our membership has grown to fifteen and because half the members live in the city and half in the suburbs, the name Urban-Suburban African Violet Club was adopted.

Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month of the year. Club officers are: president, Mrs. Evelyn Steffen; secretary, Mrs. Dorothy Kuper; treasurer, Mrs. Mabel Holtzman.

THE WEST SHORE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, OHIO, held its annual Christmas party at Madison Public Library on December 16, 1957.

The tables were beautifully decorated. Slides were shown by Mr. Mark Snow, and Bingo was played for which prizes were awarded. A gift exchange was held for the members.

Hostesses for the event were Mrs. Frances Poorman and Mrs. Mary Scott.

The following officers were elected at the November meeting: president, Mr. Joseph Shirley; vice-president, Mrs. Mary Tischler; secretary, Mrs. Vera Sinnott; treasurer, Mrs. Marion Snow.

THE GLOUCESTER COUNTY AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY held its annual Christmas dinner meeting on December 10, 1957. The following officers were elected for the coming year: president, Mrs. J. Wilmer Zee; vice-president & treasurer, Mrs. William T. Exley; secretary, Mrs. Herbert Newkirk.

A year's membership in the National African Violet Society was presented to a member who had nearly perfect attendance since the Society's organization in April 1950. A gift membership was also given to the out-going president, Mrs. Herman Wagner.

THE FRIENDLY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB OF MARION, INDIANA, held its monthly meeting January 14, 1958, at the home of Mrs. J. A. Meridith, Shady Hills. Mrs. L. B. Draper, past president, installed the new officers for this year. They are: president, Mrs. G. F. Coleman; vice-president, Mrs. W. C. McMurray; secretary, Mrs. John S. Hubbard; treasurer, Mrs. Arthur Powell.

The club made plans for its annual show which will be held May 9-10, 1958, at the Y.W.C.A.

THE BALTIMORE WEST END AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, MARYLAND, held its annual election of officers on January 8, 1958. The following were elected for the coming year: president, Mrs. Elizabeth W. Round; vice-president, Mrs. Ruth Fromm; secretary, Mrs. Dorothy Kern; treasurer, Mrs. Hilda Fangmeyer.

The club, under Mrs. Ray Underwood, chairman, will enter an exhibit in the Metropolitan Flower Show to be held in the spring. The members are looking forward to a fine educational display at the show.

THE TRI-COUNTY AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, GLENS FALLS, NEW YORK, elected the following officers for the coming year: president, Mrs. Raymond MacNeil; vice-president, Mrs. Mynard Smith; secretary, Mrs. Burdette Buckley; treasurer, Mrs. Marion DeVol.

Programs each month have been interesting and educational. Entertainment during the year included: A movie film on the 1957 show held in May; demonstrations by local florists of arrangements using African violets to beautify our homes on many occasions; and Christmas decorations to use inside and outside our homes.

In early fall the Schuylerville Garden Club was benefited by learning care, growing, and grooming of African violets through a demonstration by club members. A February food sale netted funds for the Boyce Edens Research Fund, while a white elephant sale after meetings helped to reimburse the Sunshine committee.

Twenty-five members enjoyed a turkey dinner, gifts, and Bingo at a banquet in December.

THE SALT LAKE AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, held elections for new officers at their annual Christmas party. They are: president, Mrs. Homer Hale; vice-president, Mrs. Blair Burwell; secretary, Mrs. Al Cutler; treasurer, Mrs. Franklin Child.

The new officers were installed at a January dinner-party held at the home of Mrs. Arthur Child. After dinner choice plants and leaves brought by the members were auctioned off, as a means of increasing the treasury. The January meeting marked the fourth birthday of the Club.

THE DUBONNET SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY, OHIO, held its annual pot luck luncheon and election of officers at the home of Mrs. Lloyd Montgomery on February 2, 1958.

The newly elected officers are as follows: president, Mrs. Carl W. Alcott; vice-president, Mrs. Lloyd Montgomery; secretary, Mrs. James Makuh; treasurer, Mrs. Paul S. Jasko.

The retiring president, Mrs. Joseph Hodan, was thanked for her services of the past two years.

Mrs. Victor Meier, past president of the **LITTLE RIVER AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB OF MIAMI, FLORIDA**, recently installed the following officers to serve for 1958: president, Mrs. Ewald Kockritz; vice-president, Mrs. Angelo Capeleti; treasurer, Mrs. Marguerite Ribbins; secretary, Mrs. Harold Hazen.

Last November on the occasion of its third anniversary the **SUBURBAN SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS**, donated \$19.00, representing \$1.00 per member, to the fund for the proposed Northwest Hospital Community Hospital Center in the area.

In December a Christmas luncheon, complete with roast turkey and all the trimmings, was prepared and served by the Board to the club members at the home of Mrs. George Vogeler, with Mrs. Laddie Poduska as co-hostess. A handcraft Christmas tree holding a corsage for each member adorned the living room table. The place cards were miniature violet-filled Christmas vases. The luncheon was preceded by a violet craft auction, for which members had brought items, purchased or made with violets as their theme. Mrs. Harold Klopp was the capable auctioneer. Games prepared by Mrs. A. McIlwraith and Mrs. Frank Straka were enjoyed, and prizes were awarded.

In February the day's panel-forum on "How to Improve the Appearance of an Old Plant," was followed by a Valentine party at the home of Mrs. Clarence Paeglow with Mrs. Reginald Helgesen as co-hostess. Appropriate games using names of violets were directed by Mrs. Michael DeMet who donated the prizes awarded to the winners.

THE BALTIMORE AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, MARYLAND, met at the home of Mrs. Kathryn Franz on November 18, 1957, when the following officers were elected for the coming year: president, Mrs. Edna Marx; vice-president, Mrs. Dorothea Heimert; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Edna Thompson; recording secretary, Mrs. Betty Denkelman; treasurer, Mr. Eugene Thompson.

Following the completion of the Christmas project, filling six baskets of food for the poor, the club is busily at work on plans for the spring show to be held on March 28-29, 1958.



Left, Baltimore African Violet Club, Baltimore, Maryland. Front row: Edna Thompson, corr. secretary, Dorothea Heimert, vice-president. Back row: Eugene Thompson, treasurer, Edna Marx, president, Betty Deckelman, recording secy., Tillie Leimbach, historian. Right, Sunshine African Violet Society, Denver, Colorado. Left to right: Olive Simpson, vice-president, Ethel Middleton, secretary, Lady G. Cook, president, Leone Jenik, courtesy chairman, Ruth Svec, treasurer.

THE SUNSHINE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF DENVER, COLORADO, elected the following officers for the coming year: president, Mrs. Lady Cook; vice-president, Mrs. Olive Simpson; secretary, Mrs. Ethel Middleton; treasurer, Mrs. Ruth Svec.

THE CINDERELLA AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, celebrated the third anniversary of its founding with a birthday luncheon held at Seibert's Restaurant on January 15, 1958. Table decorations were carried out in pink and white, with many varieties of pink and white violets, both singles and doubles, placed the entire length of the table alternately with pale pink candles. Place mats, napkins and nut cups also reflected the pink scheme, while the place cards had each member's name printed in silver glitter with a pink violet blossom attached to one corner.

After a delicious fried chicken luncheon, Mrs. L. W. Fortin, the 1958 president, presided at the business meeting. The following newly elected officers were in attendance: vice-president, Mrs. F. J. Hamtil; recording secretary, Mrs. R. J. Connelly; corresponding secretary, Mrs. F. B. Alston; treasurer, Mrs. A. W. Schob.

Mrs. J. E. Fitzmorris and Mrs. E. C. McGlasson, past presidents, were presented with violet pins in recognition of their terms in office. At the conclusion of the business meeting a violet quiz was conducted.

Sixteen members were present and each hoped that the fourth birthday party would be as entertaining as this one.

THE INGLEWOOD AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA, held a combined Installation of Officers and Christmas party in December 1957. Mrs. Ethel Thalheimer told a lovely story called "The Travelers," as she installed the new officers. With the help of African violets she conducted us from Holland to Hawaii and across the United States, as her delightful story unfolded.

New officers for 1958 are: president, Elsie Staff; vice-president, Margaret Quesnel; recording secretary, Theda Ayres; corresponding secretary, Dorothy Powell; treasurer, Lillian Gisbrecht.

The president's pin, with its new gavel, was presented to the out-going president, Ellen Caldon.

Plans are already started for a year book for the year ahead. This is a first for us, and has produced great enthusiasm. Following the work on the year book will be the organization of our Show in April.

THE METROPOLITAN ST. LOUIS COUNCIL OF AFRICAN VIOLET CLUBS, MISSOURI, met January 6, 1958. Election of officers was held and the following were elected: president, Mrs. Fred Treter; vice-president, Mrs. J. H. Lincoln; recording secretary, Mrs. E. Nelson; corresponding secretary, Mrs. F. J. Hamtil; treasurer, Mrs. Roy Smith.

The installation of officers and the reading of annual reports followed the election. The council will hold its sixth annual show on March 22-23, 1958, in the Floral Display House, Missouri Botanical Garden. The theme of the show will be a Violet Rainbow.

THE DAVENPORT AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, CHAPTER ONE, IOWA, met on November 19, 1957 in the home of Mrs. Hulda Meyer. The following officers were elected: president, Mrs. Hulda Meyer; vice-president, Mr. H. E. Niemann; secretary, Miss Lauretta Littig; treasurer, Mr. W. H. Niemann.

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Do you know that rooted cuttings of many new varieties will be available for fall shipment?

A FEW OF OUR FEATURES FOR THIS YEAR

- "Spotlight"** — completely different and outstanding, single pink flowers with a deep rose red center. A natural standout and feature of '58\$2.00
- The **"Cascades"** — finest fringed varieties ever, in three clear colors, mauve, blue and azureea. \$1.50
- "Seaspray"** — very pale blue, highly fringed double shading to white, true to name, exceptionally pretty\$2.00
- The **"Carnation Frills"** — fully double, carnation like flowers highlighted by yellow pollen center, in two colors, blue and purpleea. \$1.50
- "Ocean Spray"** — huge ruffled flowers with pale to medium blue mottling, very fine\$2.00
- "Pirate Gold"** — a novelty blue with frilled chartreuse edge and white spot under pollen\$1.50
- "Raspberry Red"** — the "fluorescent" lavender pink color now for the first time in a double flower\$2.00
- "The Little Giants"** — huge double blossoms on semi miniature plants — in three colors, pink, blue and purpleea. \$2.00

any \$ 6.00 selection\$ 5.25
any 7.50 selection 6.75
any 10.00 selection 8.75
any 15.00 selection 12.75

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LINWOOD, NEW JERSEY

MONACO PINK — Truly a show winner. Deep glowing double pink blossom, sturdy flower stalks in profusion. Attractive leaf of glossy bright green. Slightly quilted. Good pattern and form.



A "MUST" FOR ANY VIOLET COLLECTION \$1.50 each.

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"Top" VARIETIES AT \$1.25 Each.

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America, Angel Lace, Bernice, Bridesmaid, Camellia, Christina, Double Inspiration, Double Painted Girl, Evelyn Johnson, Frivolella, Geneva Beauty, Holiday, Icicle, Navy Bouquet, Painted City, Pink Cushion, Pink Dresden, Pink Neptune, Purple Knight, Rose Wing, Royal Blue Trailer, Ruffled Queen, Sky Trailer, Santa Maria, Sea Sprite, Spanish Lace, Sugar Babe, Tinari's June Bride, Tonka Delight, Trudy, Venice Blue, White Pride, Wine Velvet

Aeschynanthus pulcher (LIPSTICK VINE) An interesting addition to your collection of Gesneriads. Scarlet tubular flowers against shiny dark green trailing foliage. \$1.25 each

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BETHAYRES, PA.

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African Violet MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER 1958

VOLUME 12 NUMBER 1



VIOLET TREASURE HOUSE

SPRINGDALE, ARKANSAS

OUR OWN NEW INTRODUCTIONS, no Leaf Settings on many of them until next Spring:

- THORNY LOVE**—perky double frilled pinkish-creamy-white; plain leaf; neat symmetrical habit; from several years work for the impossible yellow; very nice. Cut Leaf 75¢; Plant \$1.50
- KASSELETTE**—big dbl. red-tone on dark semi-heavy girl foliage; asymmetrical. Cut Leaf 75¢; Plant \$1.50
- PONCHITA**—frilled dbl. lavender; pointed toothed leaf; "different". Cut Leaf 75¢; Plant \$1.50
- PASSION**—large frilled dbl. lavender supreme, acquired from Maxine Mason of Siloam Springs, Arkansas. Original lovely plant of this attracted great attention at 1957 Kansas City Show and many have written me for it. Cut Leaf 50¢; Plant \$1.00
- BLUE J**—striking large bright-light-blue frilled single; fluted foliage; by Mary Hines, Kansas City, Mo.; a shade you have been wanting. Leaf 40¢; LS 75¢; Plant \$1.00
- DOUBLE HOLLY**—my own, with name reserved long ago, but others used name anyway. First release of mine. Frilled double light blue; fluted foliage. Cut Leaf 40¢; Plant \$1.00
- GARDENIA SUPREME**—big double white girl; heavy bloomer; very fine variety. Cut Leaf 40¢; Plant \$1.00
- MIDNIGHT DUPONT**—my own and a good one; offered lightly this Spring; still limited stock; huge dark blue, not frilled; very desirable. Leaf 40¢; LS 60¢; YP \$1.00
- PINK CAROLETTA**—huge single glistening pink, not frilled; girl foliage. Cut Leaf 40¢; Plant \$1.00
- ROSE SPARKLE**—a fine one; huge single white, blended rose border, sparkle dusted, not frilled. Offered lightly this Spring; still limited. Leaf 40¢; LS 60¢; YP \$1.00
- SATURDAY NIGHT**—large frilled single purple, dark foliage, from California; this is the one many of you have been writing me for, for over a year. Leaf 40¢; LS 75¢; YP \$1.00
- SNOWBOUND PRINCE**—big red bicolor bloom, rising from variegated foliage. Leaf 60¢; few Plants \$1.50
- TV ROSEFROTH AMAZON**—large single white, frilled rose-blend border. Leaf 60¢; few Plants \$1.25

- FIRST OFFERING BY US OF THESE CHOICE VARIETIES OF OTHERS; no Leaf Settings until Spring; L. 40¢; P. \$1.00**
- Lyons lovely Stars, National ribbon winners:
- INVADER**—large dbl. pink, star background. HONEY—double pink-white combination; desirable.
- MARK ROBERT**—big single white star, blue markings. HOLIDAY GIRL—dbl. cerise, dark girl foliage.
- NEW STAR PINK**—big deep pink, dark foliage. JING JING—tune reddish purple; petals overlap.
- (First Star Pink LS 60¢, P. 75¢) MADONNA AMAZON—huge dbl. white girl; very fine.
- PRIMITIF**—big cerise star, dark foliage. MELODY AIR—nice double pink-white combination.
- BLU-WHITE**—single white with blue edging. MISS NEW YORK SUPREME—huge dbl. lavender; prolific.
- BEAMING**—a superior double pink, deep. OHIO SKIES—Ulerys newest huge light blue single.
- DIXIE MOONBEAM**—light blue with lighter rays. SPRINGTIME—double pink-white combination; nice.
- GLOXY GIRL**—Ulerys new red girl, dark foliage. WHITE PRIDE SUPREME—declared finest at 1958 National; huge dbl. white; prolific bloomer; tops.

- NO LEAF SETTINGS OF FOLLOWING UNTIL SPRING; Cut Leaf 60¢; Plant \$1.50:**
- BLUE ELECTRA**—fine double med-light blue. MATCHMATE—fine light blue Geneva dbl.; superior.
- BLUE POM**—immense superior dbl. medium blue. NORTHERN BREEZE—big light green fluted leaf; single white; lavender frilled edge; makes gigantic plant.
- CAROLEE**—dbl. pink on good habit girl foliage. PALSY SUPREME—huge light blue single; white edge.
- CHAPEL SUNSET**—fine dbl. orch.; dark foliage. PINK MONARCH—big single pink; good habit girl.
- CHARTREUSE LACE**—frilled white, very green edging. ROCHESTER—Tonkadale fine dbl. fringed pink; big dark fluted leaf; have had many requests for this.
- DOUBLE VIOLET BEAUTY**—nice double violet. RUTHIE—Tonkadale lovely frilled dbl. pink; had many requests for this also; very limited stock.
- FRINGED SNOW PRINCE**—fine heavy bloomer. SO SWEET—have had many, many requests for this!
- GENEVA NUEVO**—huge single purple, white edge. SLASH—deep rose-orchid tone with blue splashes.
- GOLDEN HARVEST**—full dbl. lavender Geneva-type; noticeable center; very desirable. TORCHY—Richter's unusual pink-red shade.
- HOLLYWOOD ACE**—huge dbl. blue, different leaf. VELVET MISS—Richter's lovely red-bicolor girl.
- AMBERLEY**—dbl. light blue; fluted dark foliage. WHITE GODDESS—cupped single white; girl foliage.
- MAGNIFICER GIRL**—Ulerys new tune lavender-purple double girl, dark foliage; very pretty.

- (Many of above Granger's lovely National Ribbon winners—awarded National Cup second time this year)
- FOLLOWING L 40¢; LS 60¢; P. 75¢ & \$1.00, EXCEPT starred varieties—NO LS offered on those starred:**
- (We regret we are out of LS starred varieties—have them again next Spring, with many new ones)
- AFRICAN GUARDSMAN** DBL. PINK SISTER MINNESOTA—dbl. pink *SHOW SENSATION
- AMAZIA**—blue edging DBL. WINE VELVET GIRL *MIROC—dbl. red *SHOW STAR
- ANGEL LACE** DROPS O' WINE NAVY BOUQUET AMAZON SMOKE RINGS
- BABYSBREATH** *ELIZABETH THE QUEEN OHIO BOUNTIFUL AMAZON SNOW FAIRY—dbl.
- BEAU BRUMMEL**—huge FAIRY QUEEN—dbl. PEPPERMINT PINK SNOW PRINCE
- BERNICE AMAZON**—big FALSTAFF—dbl. red *PINK CAMELLIA (T.) SPINDRIFT—fine pink
- *BLACK CHERRY**—dbl. *FIRST KISS—dbl. PINK CARESS—fr. pink STAR BLUE—lovely
- BLACK MAGIC** FLUTY B. BL. PINK FIGURE EIGHT STRIKE—pink—lovely
- BLUE NOCTURNE** *FRINGED POM POM PINK GARDEN SWEET MEMORY—fine
- BLUE PEAK** GARDENIA—dbl. white PINK LAGOON—dbl. *TENN. DEBUTANTE
- BLUE PINK**—dbl. pink GIANT PURPLE MONARCH PINK MIRACLE TV CUT VELVET
- BLUSHING AMAZON** GISELE—dbl. pink girl PINK PETTICOATS TV FLIRTY EYES
- BONFIRE**—bicolor GRACE POPE—dbl. PINK WALTZ—tops TV MAMBO
- BOYCE EDENS**—bi GREAT LAKES—huge PINK WAVERLY TV PINK MARGARET
- BRIDALWREATH AMAZON** LADY ELAINE—bi PURPLE RAJAH *TV PINK PAGE
- BRUSSELS SPRUTS** HOLIDAY AMAZON—tops QUEEN'S CUSHION *WHITE ORCH'D
- CALIPH**—dbl. red HOLLY HALO—light blue ROSEGLOW—edged TV SMOOTHIE—pink
- *CAMELLIA** (Lyons) IRISH FROLIC—dbl. ROSE'S PIPPIN TV VALLINPINK
- *CHASKA** JUNE BRIDE (Tinari) ROSEWING TV WHISPERS
- *CHRISTINA** KING RICHARD—huge *ROYAL VELVET VELVET GIRL
- COLLEGE GIRL**—bi LACY LAVENDER RUFFLED BI VIOLET DOGWOOD SUP
- DOLLY'S DREAM**—dbl. LADY ELAINE—bi SEAFROTH—light blue WAVERLY—fr. light blue
- DBL. ORCHID PRINCE** LORNA DOONE—dbl. red SIA NIP—min. *WHITE PUFF
- *DBL. PAINTED GIRL** *LOVELY LADY—dbl. pink *SHOW GLOW WHITE PUFF
- DBL. PEACH BLOSSOM** *MAXFAIR—dbl. dark blue SHOW MAN

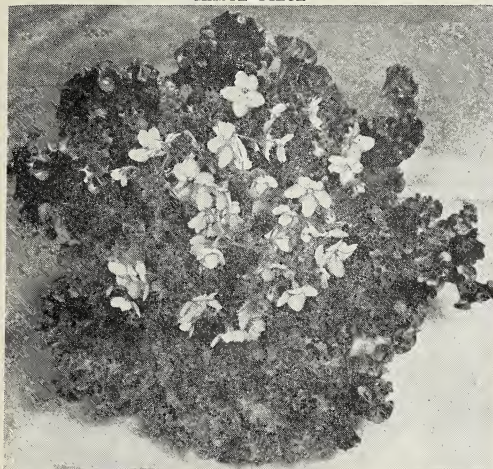
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CARAVAN PAGEANT: Light green with heavy ruching, flowers white and blue variegated.

CARAVAN COACHMAN: Dark green cupped foliage with ruching and purple blossoms.

CARAVAN EMERALD RIPPLE: Light green rippled foliage, blossoms white with blue overlay.

CARAVAN MASQUERADE: Light green shiny, wavy foliage, blossoms white with definite blue markings thru each petal.

CARAVAN ARABIAN KNIGHT: Dark green wavy foliage with light green veins, ruching ½ in. deep, dark purple frilled blossoms.

CARAVAN HEIRLOOM: Dark green shiny foliage, deep red ruching, blossoms dark purple.

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TRANSYLVANIA GYPSY: Medium green ruffled girl foliage, cup shaped frilled flower, white with blue edge becoming more prominent with age.

TRANSYLVANIA CABARET GIRL: Dark green girl foliage, dark blue fringed sweet pea type flower.

TRANSYLVANIA MERMAID: Dark green ruffled girl foliage, red petioles and red spot at base of leaf, dark purple frilled blossoms. Grows into large plant.

TRANSYLVANIA CINDERELLA: Light green ruffled girl foliage, white sweet pea frilled blossom. Semi-dwarf plant.

TRANSYLVANIA CURLI-LOCKS: Light green girl foliage, white and purple variegated sweet pea type flower. Semi-dwarf plant.

TRANSYLVANIA SWEETHEART: Medium green puckered girl type foliage, double pink blossom with cerise eye. Grows into large plant.

TRANSYLVANIA EMPRESS: Dark green puckered girl leaf, dark purple blossom. Grows into large plant.

TRANSYLVANIA FAIRY: Light green wavy foliage, white blossoms with blue frilled edge. Grows into large plant.

TRANSYLVANIA MERRY WIDOW: Medium green ruffled girl foliage, cup shaped, dark purple frilled blossom. Grows into large plant.

TRANSYLVANIA COUNTESS: Medium green girl foliage, large single pink blossom with cerise eye. Grows into large plant.

TRANSYLVANIA BABE: Small miniature plant. Light green foliage, with white and blue mottled blossom.

TRANSYLVANIA BALLERINA: Light green girl foliage, blossoms white with blue edge, edge stays on, does not revert to solid color.

CAN-CAN-GIRL: Medium green puckered girl foliage, spread evenly apart giving airy appearance, very lacy looking. Light blue blossom with dark eye.

WHITE SAILS: Light green foliage, pure white blossom, no traces of gray, has tendency to cup. Blooms prolific, flowers 2 inches across.

CORONATION DOUBLE WHITE: Medium green foliage, very large loose double white flower. Medium growth.

CRIMSON GLOW: Foliage medium green with red veins and under markings, clearest and brightest red, no traces of purple, blossoms held high above foliage.

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African Violet Magazine



A Quarterly Publication

C O N T E N T S

EDITORIAL STAFF

Vol. 12 September 1958 No. 1

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FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Friends:



When Mr. Utery sent me the picture of Cerama, I promised to say that the Utery Greenhouses are wholesale growers only and do not sell at retail and also do not answer correspondence as their mail is too heavy. So, please do, purchase this variety through your regular retail dealers. (See page 26.)

I regret that only pictures of the new Honorary Life Member and winners of the Silver Cup and Commercial Silver Cup Awards will appear this time with the Awards Committee Report. Since and winners at the Rochester Convention, it was quite difficult to get a complete pictorial record of this event. It was, therefore, decided to not use any photographs since all donors could not be equally honored by having the recipients of their awards pictured.

All Show News and Views pictures and many of the reports have had to be held over for the December Magazine due to the lack of space this time. So if your club's Show News is not printed this time: it will be next.

Most sincerely,

Aema Wright

Just naturally grow together



It's a fact — African violets grow bigger and healthier, have more blooms when fed the Stim-U-Plant way. For prize winners, start with our high-organic soil mixes, feed with the rich, balanced Stim-U-Plant solution and keep pests away with Sel-Kaps or African Violet Spray. New Growers' Sizes available postpaid: 1 lb. can, \$1.30; 5 lb. can, \$4.95. Enclose check or money order, please.

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Poets Corner

THE VIOLET AND I

The experts say humidity
Is needed for the quality
Of show plants and, I want to say,
I made arrangements right away.

Some promptly flopped, no more to rise —
For days I mourned their swift demise.
I had some left but fixed them too
With "tender care" and "love" and "goo."

I gave them lots of food and light
For blossoms rare, of pure delight.
They're rare, all right, son-of-a-gun!
So far, I don't have blossom one.

The leaves are stiff and stunted now,
I'll pitch them all some day, I vow,
But never do, they could be nice
They're victims of too much advice.

I went to visit with a friend
She had a plant that did transcend
The pretty pictures in the book
All I could do was stand and look!

I asked her what her methods were
She said that she was not quite sure.
As near as she could figure it,
A pot, some dirt, a violet . . .

A shelf somewhere in any room,
Some water now and then and — boom!
The thing is off and I am too —
I'll save mine yet, I'm telling you!

P.S.
Another year has struggled by
My plants? I cannot tell a lie.
They couldn't stay — they had to go —
They hated me! They told me so.

Mrs. C. A. Smith
Cheyenne, Wyo.

MARY MILLER
(Mrs. Neil C. Miller)

JULY 1958

WONDERING

I crossed Pink Angel and Hi-Loa Light Blue
I wonder what Violet I'll get from these two.
The pod is swelling and hiding so neat,
The mother's still blooming
and proud of this feat.

I must wait six months longer
to plant peppery seeds
But when plantlets appear
I'll know they're not weeds.

What will I call this offspring so fair,
Will it be Hi Angel or Lo Pink so rare?
But why should I worry
how to get the names matched
Just "Don't count your chickens
before they are hatched."

Mrs. George Duerksen
Wichita, Kansas

REWARD

As I work with my violets day after day
I sometimes wonder does it really pay?
Then, sure as the Sun comes up in the morn,
I've planted a leaf and a new babe is born.

He's so tiny and feeble that he needs my care,
If I didn't help him it just wouldn't be fair.
So I water and nurse him and then comes the day
A bloom appears — Yes, it really does pay!

Vida Porter
Wichita, Kansas

THE VIOLET SHOW OF '58

As I strolled into the hall,
Violets greeted me from wall to wall.
The organ in the distance played,
There, on the stage, a scene was laid.

The prizes won —
The work was done.
Each did his best,
Now home to rest.

I walked around the violets rare
Size, color, leaves did I compare —
East, west, south in all directions
They looked their best, just to perfection.

Silently the crowd, grew less,
The lights were dimmed, the doors were pressed.
With eager hands . . . their plants regain,
To take them home and there remain.

And then I strolled out thru the hall,
The organ ceased for that was all.
In mem-ories, there's still the date
Our violet show of '58.

Ida Gilbert
Sacramento, California

MONEY FOR RESEARCH

A wonderful gift for Research was announced at the Convention Banquet Meeting of the Society in Rochester. Checks totaling \$500.00 were presented to the Research Committee by D. Van Nostrand Company, Inc., and Helen Van Pelt Wilson, publishers and editor, respectively, of 1001 AFRICAN VIOLET QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY TWELVE EXPERTS. In offering the checks to Mr. Harvey, our president, Mrs. Wilson made the point that, "We have received so much from the Society, it seems appropriate that we should now begin to give." It was through her efforts that Van Nostrand, who publish many educational texts, became interested in our need for funds.

This money is the largest such gift to be received by the Society, and it will mean a great deal to projects now underway, and perhaps to new ones as well. The Research Committee has always been able to accomplish a great deal on a very slim budget, and due to its efforts, vital knowledge has been obtained on many important aspects of Saintpaulia culture — the effect of light on growth, the various results obtainable from different soil mixtures, fertilizers and problems with crown rot, root rot and nematodes.



Mrs. Wilson

A tremendous amount remains to be done, of course, and both Society and Committee are grateful to the donors of this exceptional gift.
end

HOW I REROOT AFRICAN VIOLETS

Myrtle Greenfield, Galesburg, Illinois

As so many of us do, I raise my African violets under fluorescent lights. I have a long table on one side of my violet room and flower stands on the other side. As plants grow, space is at a premium, and I cannot have too many large plants. When the plants get too large or get stalky from lack of care, I take them down in size by taking off the lower leaves and rerooting them. I have taken off as many as forty or fifty leaves, cut the stalk off and then rerooted it, and had a plant that won me a blue ribbon once more.

Don't take all the leaves off in one day. I take them off a few at a time and that way there is not so much shock. After that I let the plant stand at least two weeks longer, and then I cut the main stalk off, leaving about two inches of stalk. After the stalk is dry on the end (an hour or so after cutting it off), I place it in a small bowl with rain water, having the rain water cover the root stalk up to the leaves. Roots will soon appear all along the two inch stalk. Some plants take longer to root than others. I have had roots appear in three days, however, a week or two is the average time.

When the roots are one-fourth to one-half inch long, I plant my newly rooted plant in a

two or three inch pot in the following mixture: two cups of sand, two cups of Elk-Organic and two cups of coarse vermiculite, to which is added one heaping tablespoon of Hybrotite Potash Rock and one heaping tablespoon of Ruhm's Phosphate Rock. I leave it in this mixture until new growth shows in the center of the plant. I then put it in my regular potting soil mix, usually in a four inch pot or one that is suitable for the root growth. I do not disturb the roots any more than is necessary in putting it in the soil mix.

I have had plants that never stopped blooming through this entire procedure. Success is practically one hundred percent. I cannot remember when I have had a plant die after rerooting it this way. I always cut the main stalk on a planting day according to the moon signs.

The sand I use comes from the Mississippi River right where the waves lap up on the shore. I do not sterilize this sand as I have never been bothered with nematodes. However, if you just buy sand, I would advise sterilizing it. The Elk-Organic is manufactured by the Tyoga Products Company, Division of Elkland Leather Company, Elkland, Pennsylvania.
end

AFRICAN VIOLETS IN GREAT BRITAIN

1957 A VINTAGE (GOLD MEDAL) YEAR

The "Gold Medal" story is not an easy one to relate or write. In order to get the right perspective on this African violet story it is essential that you start from the beginning, and to do that you must imagine the nurseries of W. C. Wicks, Ltd., at Lambley, Notts., England in 1951. At that time a friend of mine brought along a dozen or so shabby looking African violets (Blue Boy), sun scalded and with but an odd bloom or two thereon. They were not much to enthuse about but my friend had thrown down the gauntlet, as it were, to my growing capabilities in saying, "Would you like to try these — I cannot grow them — but you might!" I then mentally accepted the challenge.

With the aid and guidance of the late Charles H. Curtis (that Grand Old Man of gardening whose page of reminiscences in Amateur Gardening had made him a friend and adviser to all plant and flower lovers), I managed to purchase several books on African violets, and I also acquired a stock of certain varieties which were available in England at the time. Sales commenced in 1952 and steadily increased, but until the plants produced from leaves sent over by E. H. and Pearl Thomas of California came into production, sales were purely local. With the introduction of these newer hybrids from the United States, we found that our field of business development was steadily extending, and our first display of African violets at The Royal Horticultural Society's Hall in London on June 15, 1954 was accorded the Society's Silver Flora Medal and quite favourable publicity. This was the start!

The year 1955 saw us stage the first exclusive African violet exhibit at the great Chelsea Show, that Mecca of all British nurserymen and flower specialists. Covering about one hundred square feet on flat tabling, this exhibit was accorded a visit by Her Majesty The Queen Mother, and received the award of Silver Gilt Banksian Medal. We were progressing!

1956 saw us exhibiting at a number of important shows, and again at Chelsea we received a Silver Banksian Medal for a somewhat larger exhibit than that of the previous year. At "The Royal" (second in importance throughout the country) we were accorded Royal recognition by The Queen Mother and our FIRST GOLD MEDAL AWARD for African violets at any horticultural show in Great Britain. A PROUD DAY FOR US!

1957 was indeed a memorable year for the honours accorded to African violets. We were allocated an island site of two hundred square feet at Chelsea and thereon displayed some six hundred African violets. The tabling cover was of dove gray material and the drapery to the

G. J. Wicks, Lambley, Notts., England

floor green hessian (this latter compulsory), with a ten foot Kentia palm as centre. Four torcheres, approximately four feet six inches high were individually draped with six metal rods fitted with ten containers to each rod and sloping outwards to the viewer. Each torchere was surmounted with a black basket filled with one variety of African violet. Four tall Violetrees (thank you, Frank Tinari, for your help with these) and eight smaller Violetrees complete the fixtures used. All metal parts were finished a matt black and birch, spruce and cork provided the remainder of containers and supports needed.

Simplicity was the keynote, allied with the ability of the viewer to see the plants from any angle. The only other plants used were the palm mentioned and four standard Hydrangeas (used on the corners of the stand), each some four feet six inches high and having eight to ten blooms. Incidentally, they were conspicuous because they were the only ones at Chelsea.

Prior to the allocation of awards I was approached by a gentleman who asked, "Who designed your layout", and who seemed rather surprised when I replied, "We did". He congratulated us on its artistic merits, and later informed us he was the Court Florist!

Only one person per exhibit is allowed to be on the stand during such times as judging takes place. After all the bustle and anxiety of staging, this quiet interlude was appreciated by me, and I guess by all like me! I left the Chelsea Hospital grounds about 9 p.m., tired but happy and conscious that we had done a good job; and hopeful of our reward. I arrived at the show the next morning at about 8:30 a.m. (members' day this, and with fifty thousand members no general public is needed to fill the three and one-half acre marquee for the eleven and one-half hours it is open daily), and when I saw the relatively small card, nine inches by six inches, which read:

Royal Horticultural Society
Established AD 1804 Incorporated AD 1809

GOLD MEDAL

Awarded Messrs. W. C. Wicks, Ltd.,
on May 20, 1957
for an exhibit of Saintpaulias

I was so overcome as to be speechless for a time. We had been granted an Award never given before. A "Gold Medal" for a wee flower with a big pull on people's heartstrings.

We had striven and persevered, always confident that we were doing the right thing, and

had proved to the sceptics that there was indeed a big future for African violets.

That was the 20th May 1957. WE HAD ARRIVED!!

This success was followed by:

- June 4-5 The Leicester Agricultural Society's Gold Medal
- June 15 The Notts and Derby Counties Agricultural Show, Large Gold Medal
- July The Royal Agricultural Society of England (Gold) Royal Show Norwich, 1957
- July 16-17 The Leeds Flower Show, Large Gold Medal
- August 1957 Shropshire Horticultural Society and the Shrewsbury Floral Fete, Gold Medal

SIX SHOWS * SIX GOLD MEDALS

Veritably a Gold Medal Year for Saintpaulias in England. ARE WE PROUD? YOU BET WE ARE! end

TOOTHPICK FENCES HELP ROOTING LEAVES

Martha McKenzie, Chicago, Illinois

I have such a successful and practical way of rooting African violet leaves that I want to tell you about it.

I used to have several bottles and containers, all holding leaves from my favorite plants. Now I have just one, and here's how I do it.

I get a clear plastic container which will accommodate several leaves, put foil on the top, then make holes in the foil with a pencil. A rubber band is put around the foil, then I make a fence of toothpicks putting the bottom of the pick in the rubber band. Another rubber band is placed around the top of the toothpicks. The leaves stand up straight against the top rubber band and grow individual root systems without getting the roots entangled.

When I need to replace evaporated water, I pour luke warm water right on the top. These dishes of rooting leaves are kept under lights and all the leaves do fine. end



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TOPEKA, KANSAS

THE DETROIT CONVENTION

Dorothy Reaume, Detroit, Michigan
General Chairman Detroit Convention

You are invited to the Motor City of Detroit — by the African Violets Clubs — Detroit, Royal Oak, Dearborn, East Detroit and the Clubs across the river in Canada.

We are looking forward, as we hope you are, to the African Violet Society of America, Inc., 13th Convention, April 16-18th in 1959.

Detroit has so many things of interest to offer, to name only a few. The Art Museum, Library, Belle Isle, Automobile Plants, Historical Museum, our New Look Water Front, and Canada on the other side of the river, just a few blocks from the Statler Hotel (Convention Hotel). Wonderful shops and stores within a stone's throw of the Hotel.

The Statler Hotel has a thousand guest rooms, spacious rooms for our Amateur and Commercial Show. Large rooms for dining. A beautiful lobby. In other words, a perfect place for our Convention to be held. We are sure you will enjoy it.

The Amateur and Commercial Show should be excellent. With our Amateur members bringing their most beautiful African violets, and the Commercial members, their newest and best. As in the past, many to be shown for the first time at the 1959 Convention. We are expecting big things in the way of new violets at this Convention.

We will do everything to make your stay in Detroit a pleasant and exciting one. We hope to see all our old friends and make many new ones.

If you should have any difficulty or questions, our Hospitality Chairman, Mrs. Ross Warner, 16534 Sunderland Road, Detroit 19, Michigan, will be most happy to help you, before or during the Convention.

We hope to see all of you at the Statler in 1959!

7th HEAVEN for AFRICAN VIOLET FANS

Our African Violet House is a mecca for collectors. 100's of varieties — best selection in the West. Open daily (except Thursday) 9 to 5. 45 minutes from San Francisco.

4 mi. east of tunnel on Walnut Creek Freeway (Hwy. 24). Turn South at Acalanes Valley, mid way between Orinda and Lafayette, California.



Atlantic 4-4474

PROGRAM PLANS FOR DETROIT MEETING

Joe Schulz, Indianapolis, Indiana
Program Chairman, Detroit Convention

Time passes faster than any of us like to admit and April '59 will be here sooner than we realize. So, just think of this as a kind of preview of the Detroit Convention program plans.

To many of you who read this (and I hope some do) it may seem a bit premature to start beating the "Detroit Drum." In a way it is premature to say anything because plans for the program to be presented at Detroit are a long way from completion. On the other hand it is not too soon to tell you all what we hope to offer and what changes from the norm are contemplated. Please remember that what is being considered now (in September as you read this) may undergo many changes before Convention time.

To start off, we are toying with the possibility of changing the scheduled starting hour. More on this I can't say at this time as there are several factors that must be resolved first.

We contemplate some talks on pertinent African violet subjects delivered by speakers you all will enjoy and find most interesting.

We believe the "Work Shop" idea went over with a bang at Rochester. Consequently we plan to offer another group of such meetings. We would like to hear from anyone who has an idea for a workshop group that might prove interesting to a group of Convention attendees. Of course, the "Buyer's Guide" girls will hold forth again, too.

Needless to say, we plan to have the exhibit rooms open as much as is humanly possible. But we must remember the local ladies who act as hostesses while the exhibits are open are only human and reach the end of their endurance.

I would like to invite you to please let me know if you have any ideas or suggestions for the program. After all, the Conventions are for you and we would like to present the kind of things that are of interest to the greatest number of people. It might be too late to do anything about your suggestions for Detroit but there will always be the next Convention. However, if your suggestions can be incorporated into our plans for Detroit, you can bet your bottom dollar we'll put them into effect — and many thanks to you. end

FRATHEL'S ORIGINATIONS

Lovely new and different varieties
Very large blossoms, lush foliage
Amazing, Pink Veil, Elfrieda, Glacier.
All new and many, many more and ours alone.
Write For Free List

MRS. J. FRATHEL

252 Clay Ave. Rochester 13, N. Y.

President's Message



Mr. Harvey

One of the unexpected pleasure bonuses that a person gets out of being a new President of the African Violet Society is observing the mechanics whereby the accomplishments of the Society come to be. Right now I am being really thrilled as I watch the plans for the next (Detroit) Annual Convention gradually evolve. There is nothing particularly new or startling about this process — the Rochester Convention, for example, went through the same sort of procedure — the only thing that is new is that now, for the first time, I am in a position to watch it and enjoy the watching.

A Convention lasts only three days, the Detroit Convention runs from April 16th to 18th inclusive of 1959, but the preparation for those three eventful days takes all of a year. Two special committee chairmen to handle the Detroit Convention were appointed in Rochester. One of these was Mrs. Ronald B. Reaume, of Detroit, who became the General Convention Chairman, with responsibility for the local Detroit operations. The other was Joe Schulz, of Indianapolis, who was appointed Program Chairman, with the job of working out and arranging for all the speeches and related activities of the Convention. I was elected President on a Friday morning, and I appointed those two people Saturday afternoon, slightly more than twenty-four hours after I had received the authority to make any appointments whatever. You could hardly ask for quicker action than that.

They roamed around Rochester, trying to pick up all the information that they could find that would help them in their new jobs. They obtained advice and suggestions from their counterparts of the previous year, Mrs. Fred Flory of Geneseo, N. Y. and Lewis Cook of Gainesville, N. Y. They also conferred with the chairmen and such other members as were present at the Convention of the three Standing Committees who have responsibilities for various phases of the Convention. These were: Floyd Johnson, Chairman of the Convention Time & Place Committee, who has general co-ordinating authority; Ruth Carey, watching out for the Amateur Show; and Priscilla Landaker, taking care of the problems of the Commercial people.

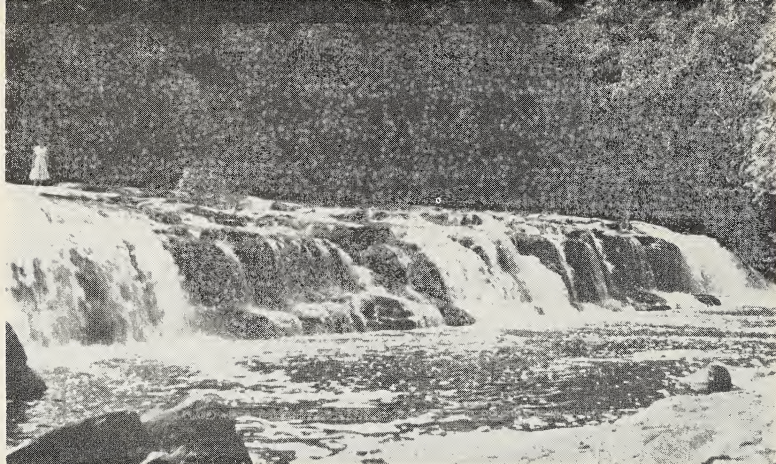
These five chairmen, the two of the Special Committees and the three of the Standing Committees are the group that I think of as the "Detroit Convention Gang." They are planing to meet in Detroit to figure out how all the pieces they have been working on separately can best be fitted together into a harmonious whole in their endeavor to make Detroit's the best Convention the Society has had thus far. I do not know exactly when you folks will be reading this, but that meeting is planned for September 5. So as you read your Magazine, you can figure whether this meeting is being held before, during, or after you read it — and remember, it is all about a Convention that is still well over six months away.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Reaume, who has by far the biggest job of the bunch, has been hard at work ever since she returned from Rochester. She has been appointing subcommittee chairmen, searching out people with special talents for special jobs, and doing all the things that have to be done to get an organization put together for as big a job as this one is. And she is not confining her search to the Detroit area alone. She is reaching out over a rather wide territory for her talent. Among other places, she is crossing the International border to Windsor, Ontario, and finding some exceptionally able people there. So this Convention will have some slight hint of an International flavor, and perhaps — who knows — it may even foreshadow a future Canadian Convention.

The thing that makes me proud of my Society is that one has no occasion to feel sorry for those people who are working so hard and so long for this Convention. They are enjoying it, are having a swell time, and are really getting more fun out of it than will we who are going to Detroit to enjoy the fruits of their labors. The harder they work, the more fun they have. Following that line of reasoning out to its logical conclusion, and observing how hard the folks are already working six months before the Convention, it looks to me as if by the time it actually arrives, they will be enjoying their fun in tremendous amounts and terrific concentrations. Of one thing I am certain: as long as we have that sort of people making up the backbone of our Society, its future is secure.

Most sincerely,

H. G. Harvey



The Author viewing the Sigi Falls.

A SEARCH FOR AFRICAN VIOLETS ON THE SIGI RIVER

Ruth E. Punter, P. O. Box 140, Tanga, Tanganyika

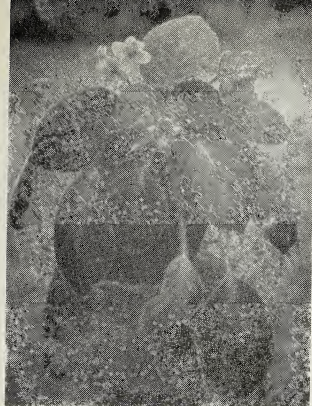
It is a Sunday morning at the beginning of March at Tanga in Tanganyika. We are ready once more for a journey in search of African violets. From experience we have found that the violets grow most prolifically on the steep rocky banks of our two local rivers, the Mkulumusi and the Sigi. Consulting our ordinance map, we find a place on the Sigi river, about nine miles from Tanga, where the contour line runs very closely parallel to the river bank, and that is our goal for today. Marked also along this river are several falls and rapids promising us some picturesque scenery.

The map shows a native footpath leading from the main road down to the river in the direction of the spot we wish to find. As it is nearing the end of our hot season and we have had only one shower of rain since Christmas, we expect any violet plants we find to be rather wilted and possibly without blooms. In a few weeks time, however, the heavy rains expected in March and April will have made the footpath impassable and the river in flood.

The first part of our journey is easily accomplished. We travel along the earth road through typical coastal scenery, plantations of coconut palms interspersed with mango trees, fields of cultivated sisal, small villages of mud huts with roofs of coconut palm leaves. A small native boy drives a flock of goats to the side of the road to let us pass, and a girl walks by carrying her shoes on her head to spare them the wear and tear of the rough ground.

An African headman shows us the path, now a double track into the bush, made so by lorries carting loads of firewood. He also boards the car, promising to show us a pleasant place for our picnic. After following a false trail for a short way into a small but well populated native village, we strike another track and drive about four miles deep into the bush in the direction of the river bed which is seen as a winding track of green trees in a valley. As the ground begins to slope we leave the car. For miles around there are stretches of brown dusty grass with patches of scrubby bush and sparse groups of shady trees. We begin walking through the blinding glare of sunlight down a dusty cattle track towards the river. Soon the welcome sound of rushing water fills the air and we enter the cool shady depths of green by the riverside. The river here is a beautiful sight, gliding between great rocks forming shallow rapids, but we see at once that this is not the ideal place for violets as the river bank on this side slopes too gradually. Steep vertical cliffs rise a short way down stream on the opposite side but there is no way to cross the river. We are tempted to make ourselves comfortable in this lovely spot and to leave our search for another day. We change our minds, however, when a large herd of native humpbacked cattle charges towards us down the slope, raising a miniature dust storm.

Some natives who are fishing nearby offer to show us a spot where both banks are steep. We therefore wend our way back to the car and set off on a circular track to join the river lower down. After driving a few more miles through the bush we reach the end of the grassland, this



Left, A plant from the Sigi Falls after it had been potted up and at the Punter home for a month.



Below, African violets growing on the rocks at Sigi Falls. Note the wilted foliage due to the drought.

time at the top of a very steep valley. The Africans seize our picnic baskets and set off at a brisk pace, carrying the baskets on their heads. We descend further into the valley and suddenly round a bend, coming upon a wonderful sight. In front of us lies a broad flat shelf of rock shaded by enormous trees. The far end of the shelf is covered with a foaming mass of water which sweeps over the rocks in a most delightful little waterfall. The water descends into a pool which stretches from beneath the rock where we stand to the far bank about a hundred yards away. In the rainy season the whole rock must be a foaming torrent of rapids. The scene is surrounded by gigantic trees covered with great ropes of hanging creepers. A family of monkeys in one of the trees surveys us silently for a few seconds and then disappears, chattering and crashing through the swaying branches high above our heads.

As for the violets, our surmises have been correct; they grow in holes in the rocks above high water level and in the soil up the steep banks of the river. As we expected, they are a

little limp and have no flowers, but they are growing in large clumps along the bank as far as we can see.

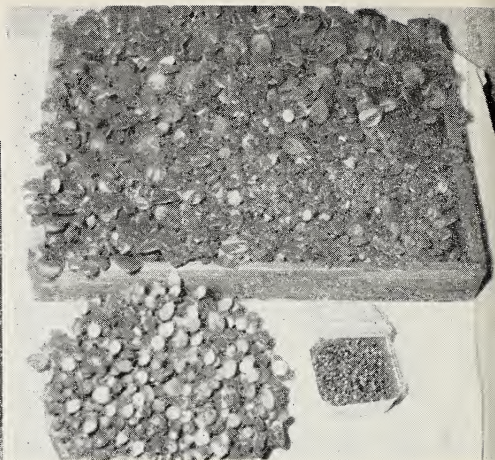
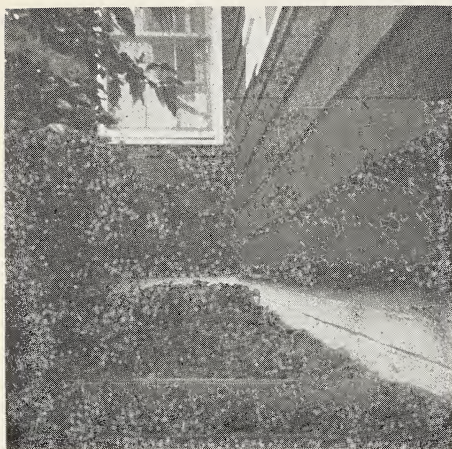
This violet plant appears to be larger than the usual type of *Saintpaulia ionantha*. The leaves are large and elongated, very dark green and densely covered with hairs, the midrib and veins showing up as pale lines like on the *Saintpaulia tongwensis*. There are many elongated seedpods also covered with whitish hairs.

Before collecting specimens we sit on the great rock and survey the scenery. It is now high noon, the surface of the rock not shaded by the trees is shimmering in the heat, much too hot to touch with the bare foot. The headman, our guide, spreads a small mat on the surface of the rock, kneels toward Mecca, bowing his head to the ground several times, performing the daily ancient rites of the Moslem religion.

We have our picnic, collect a few plants and some leaves, then return home very satisfied with our day's search, and replant our violets and leaves in pots already prepared for them.

end

Right, Seedlings in three stages of growth. The larger plants are ready for individual pots.



Left, Flats of young seedlings growing out of doors behind shrubbery which shelters them.

Cross-Pollinating For Seedlings

Mrs. T. C. Fritz, Kingsport, Tennessee

When Alma Wright asked me to do an article for the magazine on cross-pollination my first inclination was to refuse since I have never written anything for publication. However, on second thought, I felt my experiences over the past five years might help some who have just been bitten by "the hybridizing bug."

First of all let me say that if you don't have a lot of room or have a way of making room enough to bring hundreds of unwanted seedlings into bloom it's better not to start at all. Seed from a couple of pods can soon take up all the available space a person has and take it from me, you won't want to part with even one of those tiny plants before it has bloomed.

For the past few years at least two-thirds of all my growing space has been given over to seedlings. Since we have one son in college and two more soon to follow I feel I must make expenses so I reserve enough space for growing regular varieties to sell in order to make expenses.

For me, growing seedlings is the only way to grow violets for pleasure. Watching a new group of seedlings coming into bloom is one of

the greatest thrills I have in growing plants. I watch each bud opening with eager anticipation, then, with such disappointment if it turns out to be an ordinary blossom; but, oh, such a great pleasure if it does measure up to expectations or go even beyond that!

I started my home hybridizing when I became peeved at the growers in general. You see, I blamed them for the hundreds of nematode infested plants and plantlets I had to dump in the garbage pail. If I had the experience then that I do now I would have realized that the fault was not solely with the growers but with my pan watering methods as well. I had sterilized my soil mixture and kept up a regular spray program but since I didn't realize that all those little creatures were doing their dirty work underground I went blissfully along until I awakened to the fact that one by one my nice plants were sickening and had to be discarded. Too late I found out that I should not have put all those newly purchased plants in the pans with my other plants and pan watered them all together. I was so disheartened and sick, and if I hadn't been so determined to grow beautiful healthy plants, I guess I would have quit right

then and there. However, since I had a nice fluorescent cart my husband had built for me and this disaster seemed a challenge, I decided to create my own strain of violets. It seemed so easy but how little I knew! I doubt if I would have had the courage to start if I had known how many disappointments that were to follow. That first year I didn't have any goal in mind (I just wanted some nice, healthy plants) so when all those hundreds of seedlings bloomed I had nothing of any consequence just ordinary blues, orchids, and bicolors. By then, I was realizing the trail would be longer and harder than I had thought and I almost gave up the whole idea. However, I couldn't resist the temptation to try once more — this time crossing back on some of the best seedlings. This time I had better luck and the "bug" had really bitten hard. I was so enthused that I name reserved ten with the African Violet Society. However, after thoroughly testing them, I have kept only two plants; Tennessee Beauty, a large medium blue double that grows into a round symmetrical plant, and another huge, round light blue single from Pink Wonder that I have used in later hybridizing. From it I obtained Dusty Pink (a large, round, pale pink ruffled blossom with dark, round symmetrical foliage) by crossing it with Pink Delight. I was "sure" this plant would win a blue ribbon in the Rochester show, but after two nights and one and a half days closed in a box and being bounced around in the trunk of the car for 720 miles it did well to have enough blossoms left to merit a second place ribbon. Here I am getting ahead of my story.

After installing three more fluorescent lights and my plants threatening to take over all the dining room and practically the whole house, my husband decided to build me a small (10' x 16') lean-to greenhouse onto the garage. It was completed last year and although we had a very severe winter the plants grew and bloomed beautifully out there with fan-forced heat from a small oil heater.

In previous years, being short of space inside, I tried to have a lot of seedlings ready to pot by the time warm weather arrived. Then I would fill the two corner windows in the garage and, having an offset to the north side of the house, I put seed flats up on bricks behind the shrubbery and brought several hundreds of seedlings into bloom, watering them with a spray from the hose. They received practically no sun all day but the reflected light from the sky was enough to bring them into bloom fast and the cool, humid atmosphere during the heat of the summer was good for them.

No insects ever bothered them but this same atmosphere is a favorite with snails also so I had to sprinkle snail pellets around and under the flats. Despite this, once in a while one would get through and eat a hole in a leaf. To be on the safe side, if a plant bloomed that I wanted to keep I sprayed it thoroughly and repotted it before bringing it into the house. Since I have so many seedlings the greenhouse is "bursting at the seams"; this same space is being utilized again this summer now that the temperatures are soaring.

My husband says that when I do things I can't do them in moderation and now I have so many seeds that if I planted them all the plants would cover a ten acre field. So I plant only a few seeds from each pod and if it isn't a special cross I dispose of the others, but if I think I have a good chance of getting something really nice I save the seeds to plant at a later date. With new crosses coming along, I seldom get around to planting the others, however. Right here, I would like to stress that it's more fun to set a goal for yourself. To see that goal come true gives so much pleasure and satisfaction. Of course, if you want to grow only a few seedlings for the fun of it you won't need to keep records, but if you have a definite goal to accomplish I have found that keeping records is a must. Last year, I had some nice seedlings with huge



A group of nice ruffled foliage seedlings not yet in bloom.



Specimen Seedling — Violet Lace.

notched and ruffled foliage. From them I have obtained a whole series of plants with foliages similar to the TV and Caravan series. Some are completely dark with no green showing and some dark and light green — but all with the velvety texture and deep ruffling. Since I didn't keep thorough records (only labeled the mother plant) and I didn't have any of those series to work with, I don't know what I crossed on those seedlings to obtain those foliages. So you see it is more fun with complete records. These plants I have planted into three inch pots before they bloom in order for the foliages to have room to develop properly. Most of them have set buds now so I will soon know just what I have obtained from these crosses. I do know that one plant is a little miniature with that same characteristic foliage and I'm so anxious for it to bloom.

So far, I have obtained nice plants, single and double, fringed and plain, in about all color combinations, except bright red and yellow. I have found that pink and true whites are the hardest colors to obtain. In fact, just this year I obtained my first nice white fringed double. It has opened chartreuse at first and then, when the bloom ages the white gradually takes over and leaves only a trace of the chartreuse. That and some pinks I have had to do the same thing lead me to believe the chartreuse in violet blossoms is only present on the blossoms that don't open out completely.

Since we have no violet clubs or shows here except our annual flower show I felt that to get an idea of the quality of my plants I would have to take them to the National Convention. So, I put three seedlings in the Cincinnati show. One (later named Southern Belle) won a blue and the other two, a white ruffled single and a double ruffled lavender received red ribbons. This year

I took eleven of my plants to Rochester and seven won blue ribbons and four red ribbons, so I feel I am progressing along the hybridizing trail.

Growing seedlings takes a lot of time, patience, and hard work and I find I must keep so many plants that I wouldn't think of propagating further. They all have one or more characteristics that I want to combine into a really good plant. For instance, some have gorgeous foliages but the blossoms are too small or some may have huge beautiful blossoms but the foliages can be improved, so I try again. I wonder if there will ever be a perfect plant. To me an ideal plant would have huge beautifully colored blossoms in profusion, good propagating habits, beautiful foliage that held its good color in all stages, and remained in bloom at least 90% of the year. It's worth working forward too, I think. Then I'm sure we're all working toward that mythical clear yellow and brilliant scarlet red.

Getting back to my method of growing seedlings, I first select two parent plants whose good characteristics I would like to combine and I cross-pollinate on both plants so if one doesn't set seeds maybe the other plant will. If I have a special goal in mind I label the cross with a small piece of paper and scotch tape. After about 6 months the pods ripen and I put them in individual plastic cups to ripen for a couple of weeks or more before planting. In the past, I have mostly labeled those pots with only one parent (such as "seed from Pink Miracle"). I know now that it is much better to label both parents, then you know more about your seedlings' background and what is best to cross back on them. In that way you can accomplish as much with fewer crosses. For planting I use a small plastic or glass dish with a lid and fill about $\frac{3}{4}$ full of a sterilized medium such as sphagnum moss, mixture of sphagnum, fine vermiculite and peat, etc., whichever I happen to have at the time. After about two weeks the plantlets appear and as soon as they get large enough are transplanted in bunches into a light, porous potting medium in a large container and covered with plastic for at least two weeks, watching for any appearance of mold. After growing a second set of leaves they are transplanted individually into seed flats and grown until large enough to pot. At this stage the long, spindly foliated plants are culled and not even allowed to bloom.

When I get a plant that I think is worth keeping for testing, I take a couple of leaves for rooting and then plant it into a four inch pot to see if it develops properly. At this stage I name it for my own identification.

For the growers who read this article I would like to pass along this suggestion: Always have large plants of the varieties you are introducing for your customers to see, for the public, as a whole, wants a plant that can be grown into a beautiful specimen. For instance, I try to grow

the seedlings I'm testing into as nearly perfect plants as I can, and invariably people coming in to buy plants want small ones of the ones I'm testing. One lady came for a double pink and when she saw my large, profusely blooming Double Pink Princess she said she'd wait until she could have one of those, even though I had small plants of several other double pink registered varieties. I think it was only because she saw that one grown into as perfect a plant as I could grow it. Several of my plants produce two bloom stalks per leaf axil but I have noticed that usually one doesn't have as many blooms as the other.

So many "new" violets are being introduced each year that I don't pretend to keep up with all of them. I wait to see if they stay on most of the growers' lists for a long time. Then I can be reasonably sure that they are really worthwhile plants. I have found that some of the older varieties just can't be beaten for performance and I'm tired of trying to coax some of the "new" varieties into a good performance. For instance, I have had one registered variety two years and to date have not received one true plant from it.

In conclusion let me sum up these points in growing seedlings:

- (1) Select two parent plants with characteristics you want to combine
- (2) Have a definite goal in mind
- (3) Label and keep accurate records
- (4) Discard with a heavy hand
- (5) Be critical of the plants you keep and ask yourself this question, "Would I like to purchase this plant as a really new variety?"

This last point is the main reason I have not registered any plants. Although I think I have some beautiful varieties I'm not sure they're different enough to register as really new plants. If I should decide to register them, I will have to check with the Registrar to see if I can use these names.

Although I may never succeed in producing a violet that is utterly sensational, I am getting so much satisfaction from the pretty plants my seeds are producing that I think hybridizing for pleasure is very worthwhile and I only wish I didn't have to propagate a plant from a leaf cutting.



UNUSUAL ARRANGEMENT

Mrs. O. D. Fleming, Jr., Raleigh, North Carolina

Egg shells, twigs and an African violet (Snow Prince Select) were used in making the arrangement pictured above. First the twigs were sprayed, then glitter added, after which they were put in the Styrofoam base to form the line of the arrangement. The African violet was placed on the edge of the Styrofoam base and the Madonna was placed in the center of the blossoms.

The blossoms are made from halves of egg shells, which are prepared as follows: Wash the three layers of skin from inside egg shells under running water; let dry thoroughly; bore hole in egg shell to allow room for stamens and wire stems. Bend back a tiny portion of wire (inside the flower) so that it will not slip out, then catch wire and stamens on back of egg shell and fasten with scotch tape. Paint inside and outside of egg shell with white water colors if preferred. Tip edges of stamen with yellow paint. The stamens I used were taken from artificial flowers.

end

AFRICAN VIOLETS

DENVER ROYALE — Huge double purple
DENVER DELIGHT — Huge double dark blue

500 others, also Miniatures

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MRS. COURT JOHNSTON

Carrollton, Illinois

Buyer's Guide Preferred List

The Buyer's Guide Committee takes great pleasure in again giving you their preferred list of African violets.

Each plant placed on this list must receive four votes of the five member committee before being placed on it. The Committee as a whole considers this group to be the most worthy of those tested.

Buyer's Guide Committee: Quixie Nichols, Madison, Tennessee; Eleanor Rodda, Ossian, Indiana; Marjorie Buckner, Pleasant Hill, Missouri; Betty Stoeher, Greenwood, Indiana; Mary E. Suhr, Waterville, Ohio.

- AIR WAVES** (Select Violet House) Fringed double white blossoms on light green wavy foliage. Blossom stems rather weak.
- BLACK CHERRY** (Anderson) Lovely large deep red blossoms on olive green red-backed foliage. Blossoms last unusually long.
- BLACK MAGIC** (Granger Garden's) This is an oldie but one that is still a very popular variety. Dark blue double blossoms on dark green foliage.
- BLUE STAR** (Lyon's) One of the largest blossoms to date. Huge dark blue star on dark green plain foliage.
- BLUE HALO** (Fischer's) This Geneva type blue blossom possibly holds its white edge best of all. Deep blue blossoms on dark green foliage.
- BLUE NOCTURNE** (Granger Garden's) Lovely light blue frilled double blossoms on medium green wavy foliage.
- BLUE POM** (Granger Garden's) Medium green Supreme type foliage with lots of large light blue double blossoms.
- BOYCE EDENS** (Nichols) This is also one of the older varieties that is still very popular. Very large orchid bicolor blossom on deep green foliage.
- BLUSHING** (Ulery's) This is also one of the older varieties that is still considered very good. Almost white double blossom with a faint orchid color in the center of each blossom, deep green foliage.
- BLUSHING SUPREME** (Ulery's) This is the Supreme form of the above with extra large blossoms.
- CRUSADER** (Ulery's) Deep green foliage with a profusion of double deep red blossoms. Rather upright in growth.
- DARK EYED DREAM** (Granger Garden's) Medium green foliage with light blue blossoms with a darker eye zone.
- DIXIE MOONBEAM** (Brown's) White blossoms with a heavy medium blue overlay, on deep green foliage.
- DIXIE ORCHID** (Brown's) Deep green foliage with large wavy orchid blossoms.
- EBB TIDE** (Granger Garden's) Wavy deep green foliage with medium sized white blossoms heavily overlaid with blue in the center of each petal.
- FANTASY** (Behnke) Medium green foliage with blossoms of orchid streaked and splotched bright blue.
- FASCINATION** (Tonkadale's) Deep pink fringed double blossoms on deep green wavy foliage.
- FIRE DANCE** (Fischer's) Deep green foliage with large dark red slightly bicolor blossoms.
- HOLIDAY SPORT** (Lyon's) Deep green foliage with dark red reverse and fuschia colored double blooms.
- INNOCENCE** (Ulery's) This is also an older variety that is still a favorite in its class. Deep green red-backed foliage with white blossoms.
- KIMBERLY** (Brewer) Large medium blue double bloom with a white edge and beautiful Holly type foliage.
- LAVENDA** (Ulery's) Light lavender double blossoms on olive green foliage. This is also an older variety that is liked very much.
- LAVENDER HALO** (Fischer's) Large lavender blossoms with a distinct white edge and wavy medium green foliage.
- LITTLE SWEETHEART** (Tonkadale's) Light pink fringed double blossoms in profusion with deep green wavy foliage.
- LOVELY LADY** (Wilson's) Deep green foliage with a profusion of deep pink double blossoms.

LORNA DOONE (Granger Garden's) Olive green foliage slightly notched on the edges with a profusion of large, deep red, fringed blossoms.

MARK ROBERT (Lyon's) Another huge star shaped blossom, white overlaid with blue on medium green foliage.

MENDOTA (Tonkadale's) Medium green wavy foliage with a profusion of light mauve violet, fringed double blooms.

MODERNAIRE (Granger Garden's) Large bright blue veined blossoms in profusion on deep green modified girl foliage.

MY SIN (Lyon's) Deep pink, very large flowers, deep green foliage which grows to only a medium sized plant.

OHIO BOUNTIFUL (Select Violet House) One of the older double pink varieties which is still a favorite with many because of its ease of propagation and growth. Medium shade of pink and nice green foliage.

PURPLE KNIGHT (Ulery's) This is also one of the older varieties but is still a favorite because of its nice large purple blossoms and its lovely deep green foliage which is slightly troughed.

PURPLE HI-LOA (Tonkadale's) This is another of the old purple violets that is still very popular. Deep olive green wavy foliage with medium sized fringed purple blossoms.

PANDORA (Granger Garden's) Large medium blue blossom on modified girl foliage.

PINK DOUBLE ONE (Peterson's) Dark red-backed foliage, profusion of deep pink double blossoms.

PINK MIRACLE (Fischer's) Medium size plant with nice deep green foliage and a lovely pink blossom with a deeper eye zone and a deeper pink edge on each petal, usually has a faint fringe on edges of petals.

PINK POPCORN (Brewer's) Considered to be a miniature, as it only grows to about five inches, with deep green modified foliage. Blooms held above the crown are like miniature rosebuds of deep pink.

PRIMATIF (Lyon's) Deep green foliage with large fuschia pink star shaped blossoms held well above the foliage. Similar in color to Holiday Sport, Pink Sequin.

ROSE WING (Granger Garden's) This is another of the old ones that is still very popular when it comes true, but is sometimes variable. DuPont foliage with large white fringed blossoms overlaid rosy orchid.

ROYAL BOUQUET (Granger Garden's) Medium green foliage with large deep blue fringed, fluffy double blossoms.

RAMONA (Tonkadale's) Deep green wavy foliage with nice deep pink fringed double blooms.

RUFFLED QUEEN (Ulery's) Deep green rounded duPont foliage with large burgundy colored deeply fringed blossoms. This is another one of the older varieties.

STAR PINK (new) (Lyon's) Medium size plant with deep green foliage and large deep pink star shaped blossoms.

STRIKE ME PINK (Brewer's) Deep green girl foliage with lots of lovely double deep pink blossoms that resemble miniature roses.

SANTA MARIA (Granger Garden's) Olive green wavy foliage with a profusion of heavily fringed light blue blossoms.

SO SWEET (Select Violet House) Soft pink double slightly fringed blossom with an almost white edge. Slightly wavy medium green foliage.

T.V. CUT VELVET (Vallin) This one is truly a collector's item, having dark Holly type foliage and a double purple blossom with a chartreuse edge.

VALINPINK (Vallin) Deep green Holly type foliage with lovely deep pink fringed blossoms sometimes with a chartreuse edge.

WHITE MADONNA (Granger Garden's) Deep green girl foliage with double and semidouble white blossoms. This too is an old favorite.

WHITE PRIDE (Ulery's) This is also one that is not too new. Deep green foliage with double white blossoms.

WHITE PRIDE SUPREME (Ulery's) This variety was our best plant at Rochester. Heavy deep green foliage with very large double white blossoms that reminds one of a camellia. end

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AN EXPERIENCE I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU

Sophie Baker, Portland, Oregon

Due to a coronary heart attack in April, 1957, my husband was not permitted to go up and down stairs, so it was necessary to sell our lovely, big home. After looking for many months, we found what we think an ideal place for us. Moving, oh such a job, bad enough at its best, but when you have about one thousand African violets of various sizes, plus episcias, Kohlerias, Rechsteineria, etc., it is worse than a job, it is a tragedy. Right now I say never again, if I have to move again the plants will go and I will just take leaves. My son says, "Now, Mom, you know you would move them." Well — maybe.

Since I grow my plants under lights my sons got busy building me another plant room in the basement similar to the one I had. They had the frame work on two sides and some of the fixtures on the walls when the basement started to leak terribly. They had to take part of the frame work out so the men could waterproof the basement. The contractor used cement, sand and iron Embecco #5. This took several days and then work could start on my plant room again.

Finally it was finished, painted, and lights put up. Gradually those poor African violets were moved out of their dark spots to this beautiful new plant room where they had lots of light. They started to bloom, and first I noticed my Northern Dawn was quite dark, but next time the bloom was more natural.

As time went on they bloomed, and, woe is me, my poor Silver Moon had orchid edges, then Snow Prince Select was lavender. Lavender Bo Peep was a deep, dark blue; Zelma which had been such a beautiful orchid with white edge was just another plain dark blue. I brought these last two plants upstairs and for weeks they stayed the dark blue. A friend suggested I take the blooms off, which I did, but they are now throwing up buds again and they still look blue. (I'm blue too.)

My Columbia Queen, which is a light blue, has changed to a dark blue; most of the dark blues are almost black; and many more orchids have bloomed out blue.

Double Pink Arbutus is a very, very deep pink, and Pink Miracle, Fremont Rose and Fremont Bouquet are the nearest thing to a red you ever saw. The latest one that is so noticeably different is Fleur Petite. It is such a pretty plant, but, as a visitor said, "Why, it is almost black."

I asked the State Agriculture Inspector to come out and see them. He thought it was too much light, and so did one commercial grower

who saw the plants. The inspector sent Mr. Mackenness out from the Light Company, and, of course, he came when I was out. When I returned I called him and he asked me to explain my troubles to him over the phone so he would know what to bring with him.

In the meantime, before Mr. Mackenness came out, we borrowed a light meter and found that we did not have too much light. Some shelves have six hundred candle power while others have four hundred and twenty-five.

We discussed our troubles with various ones, and my son thought it might be caused from something used in waterproofing the basement. While talking to Mr. Mackenness I told him about this and he felt certain that that was the cause of the trouble. He says plants absorb the iron through the leaves, said they spray apple trees with iron and it is absorbed through their leaves. He said it would not be permanent but to wait about two months and if it did not clear up to call again and he would come out and check for something else. Of course, in the meantime it has me in a dither.

About the middle or latter part of April the basement broke out again and water poured in, so I suppose that is where the iron could have become more available to the plants, when the water was standing on the preparation.

Although Mr. Mackenness says this is not permanent, I do hope he is wrong with a few of them, such as the pinks so near red. He said they were toxic and they certainly look as if they are. Some look as if they were struggling for life, so to speak. The outer rows of leaves are fine, but the center rows just do not grow as large as they should. The bud stems come up, lots of them, but they are slow in opening and when they do open they cup and do not open out flat. Some look as if they are wilted, although they are very firm. Around the crown the suckers come up from the ground, breaking through like little plants. As I said before, it looks to me as if the plants are struggling to save their lives, yet they do not look as if they are dying.

June 1st, and the violets are still acting up but they look a little more normal. Fleur Petite is still dark and opens up so very full, but it is ragged and shows all the white around the pollen sacs. The reds are getting a little lighter. Lavender Bo Peep and Zelma are still dark blue.

I have some huge blossoms and some lovely seedlings, but, of course, cannot be certain that the seedlings are true with all the changes that are going on.

June 23rd. This is the end of my story. My plants are all back to normal and simply beautiful; maybe the iron, the shock or something made them that way. Maybe they are just performing nicely to make up to me for all my trouble with them. end

AFTER GLO WAS FIRST MY APOLOGIES TO MARV AND NAOMI WEEKS

Joe Schulz, Indianapolis, Indiana

Many years ago, at least more than I care to remember, when my teachers were attempting to instill in me the basic 3-R's, one of them, bless her soul, suggested a bit of philosophy that I have endeavored to live by. That philosophy was this: No matter what you do, do it to the best of your ability.

I've tried, really tried, to do just that. However, experience has proven this philosophy, as far as I'm concerned, has a double meaning. What I do wrong is also done well!! And believe you me, I've really **GOOFED** this time.

When I wrote the report on the Rochester Convention Shows, I blandly and in good faith, reported that the best professional seedling was adjudged to be a plant called "Pink Drift," a gorgeous variety, hybridized, grown, groomed and exhibited by Marv and Naomi Weeks of Brockport, N. Y. Now, at this late date, comes the revelation. I was only half-right. Marv and Naomi did receive the coveted "BEST" award, but it was for the variety "After Glo" instead of "Pink Drift."

My only excuse for this gross error is that I'm never in my right mind while attending a Convention. Apparently I was not even close to sanity this time.

Candidly speaking, and in my humble opinion, both of the varieties concerned are superb, each worthy of a prominent place in any collection.

My deepest apologies, Marv and Naomi, and please forgive me — end

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DRAINAGE

Bunnie McGraw, Downers Grove, Illinois

If I were a wiggly worm about to be stepped upon by a dainty lady's heel, I couldn't feel more squirmy than I do when I am asked about the type of drainage I use in my flower pots for the violets. Because, you see, I really don't do any of the things which the books written by the best growers advise us all to do. I merely make certain that the potting soil is light. I make certain of that by using plenty of Milburn's Peat Moss with the other things I put into the pot. I try to be very scientific about mixing the soil, but it usually winds up about like making pancakes, which are better if I add buttermilk when I have it. So when I have the ideal combination I feel better about my plants, but they apparently do not care much and just grow on like they always have.

Of course, if I felt that gravel or some other such roughage was necessary in the bottom of the pot, I would use it. But since pots placed in trays are fed by capillary action, it appeared to me to be more practicable to get the potting soil right down there next to the drainage hole so that the moisture could be allowed to enter directly into the soil, and therefore to the roots.

Since I do practice careful watering, there isn't need for my plants to have stones in their pots so that excess water may run off. In fact, I have beautiful plants grown in containers without the usual drainage hole. It is most important then to be careful in watering and feeding.

end

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SUCCESS AND ENJOYMENT OF AFRICAN VIOLETS

William L. Meachem, Associate Editor, Flower Grower Magazine, New York

Your chairman really offered me a challenge when he assigned me the topic of Success and Enjoyment of African Violets. When we think about it for a minute or two, the only conclusion we can arrive at is that it is impossible to have one without the other — except in some very rare instances.

The very fact that there is an organization such as the African Violet Society of America, Inc., and that this meeting is being held at this moment is conclusive proof that a great many thousands of people do have great success with African violets and enjoy growing them.

Without doubt, this organization is the hub of enthusiasm in the African violet world. This is the organization, and the people in it, to whom the many millions of beginners come seeking guidance and inspiration in their quest for information about the Queen of house plants. These beginners also have enthusiasm and are seeking the success and enjoyment you already possess.

I had a very striking experience which exemplified this quest for information and enthusiasm early this year. Many of you from the Metropolitan New York area, I am sure, are familiar with Ruth Alampi's garden television show which appears every Saturday afternoon. In late January, she invited me to appear as a guest to talk on African violets. Well, you know that it is almost impossible to tell much in a mere twelve minutes, but I did my best.

In addition, as an extra feature she offered a little mimeographed sheet on growing African violets prepared by the U.S.D.A. and a bulletin on house plants care. From past experience she figured that there would be about 700 or 800 requests, but seeing that the subject was African violets, which are very popular among her listeners, she requested 1,000.

On Wednesday of the week after the show, I received an almost frantic call from her saying that she was swamped with requests and many people were asking specific questions. So I volunteered to answer the letters to the best of my ability as more and more letters came in. The final tally was not 1,000 as she thought, but over 4,000! As a result, my secretary and I answered some 200 letters with specific questions. It was a chore — believe me — but I think I gained a wealth of knowledge as here I was able to find the particular problems facing the gardeners who are seeking success and enjoyment ment with African violets.

If you are also like me, and I think most of you are, you get just as much enjoyment out of helping a person who has just started growing

African violets by giving him — or her — the right start as you do in growing your own plants. Also, without doubt, you have been — or will be — called upon to speak on the subject of African violets. In these instances perhaps a few key suggestions will be the means for bringing success and enjoyment of African violets to those people where it does not now exist.

Without any hesitation, my experience has shown that the greatest problem and stumbling block for success and enjoyment of African violets is flowering. Perhaps you even had this problem when you first started growing African violets. In almost nine cases out of ten the answer to this question is light.

It is here that many of us experts and writers have fallen down on the job. In the early writings about African violets, when little was actually known of their culture in the home, the impression was given that here was a plant that needed almost total darkness, since they are grown in a rather heavily shaded greenhouse. A speck of sunlight on the leaves meant sure failure. Of course, you know as well as I that this is far from the truth. A little crusading on your part here will do much to insure success where it is now lacking.

But even on the subject of light it is difficult to give any strict rule when plants are grown on a windowsill, because there are always exceptions to the rule.

The simplest answer is, "Grow the plants in an east or west window." This means, then, that the plant will receive several hours of direct early morning or late afternoon sun. Giving a number of hours sun, I think, is a better answer for several reasons.

Many people do not have a suitable east or west window so immediately they come to the conclusions that they cannot grow African violets at all. We know this is wrong as it is possible to grow them in any window that receives either sun or good light. An east window that is shaded with trees and shrubs will not be as suitable as a north window that receives a great deal of reflected light say from a nearby white building, lake or what have you.

Some of my most successful African violets were grown in a south window. Ordinarily, you would say this is too much sunlight. But in this case it wasn't as the house is a one-story California bungalow with a large overhanging roof. In the winter, when the sun is low in the sky and not too strong, enough sun filtered through to give optimum flowering. In the summer, when the sun is stronger but higher in the sky and the

large overhang protected the plants from midday sun.

So the answer is not simple even though we can say plants should receive several hours of direct early morning or late afternoon sun. We must also bear in mind that every house is different, and that in each case the problem should be answered by reasoning rather than a dogmatic statement. It is even likely that in some houses plants will have to be moved from one window to another at different seasons so they can get the proper amount of light.

Earlier I said that in nine cases out of ten the nonflowering is light. It is easy to tell whether the plant is receiving enough light or not — even a description of the plant by the owner will give you the answer. Plants that lack sufficient light for flowering are usually very healthy-looking — which is the frustrating thing to the owner. The leaves have a rich dark color. On the other hand, the reverse would be true with a plant receiving too much light — sickly light green leaves.

What we are looking for is the happy medium: good leaf color and many flowers.

Now the question comes up, "What about the remaining ten percent of those problem, non-flowering plants?" One of the answers is that of varietal difference. I have seen it, and perhaps you have, too, where one variety under a certain light condition will not flower whereas others will. It is apparent then that some varieties demand a little more light than others.

Flowering success in the average home on the average windowsill is best assured when those more prolific varieties are grown. I admit that the problem is not easily solved when a beginner may have three or four varieties, all of which are stubborn in their flowering. But, you can certainly drop the remark that you have found that there are certain varieties, other than the ones she is growing, that do much better in the home. Generally these are the older varieties, still available from growers because of their above-average flowering performance in the average home.

Watering plays an important part in the flowering of African violets. I think that answering the question of, "How much water should I give my plant?" is the hardest there is. This holds true whether the subject is an African violet, foliage, plant, rose, shrub or lawn. Here, again, we must rely on reasoning rather than a dogmatic statement of: "Every day, every other day, once a week or once every two weeks."

The correct answer is: "African violets should be watered when they need it." This, of course, leaves the beginner exactly where he was before. Watering of African violets is one of those necessary practices which, if not done properly, can be the number one African violet killer. I have often had to tell people that they have killed their plant with kindness.

How, then, can we give a good answer to this question of watering? The soil, itself, is the best judge of whether it needs water or not. Quite often just by looking at the surface you can tell that the soil is dry, but with some of the soil mixtures we use it is almost impossible to tell by looking at it.

"Feel the soil — if it feels dry and will not form a small ball in your fingers, give it water." This is the answer a beginner is looking for. He should also be impressed with the fact that it may take many trials and errors before he masters the "feel" of moist soil.

If somebody had told him, or he may have read, that plants should be watered every day, it may be hard to break the habit. But a few remarks on why water disappears from the soil may be a big help. The plant itself uses water for making leaf, stem and flower growth. Most of the water it takes from the soil, though, disappears through the leaves during the process called transpiration.

In the average home, where humidity is rather low — geared to our likes not the plant's — most soil water is lost by evaporation from the soil surface, or through the sides of clay pots.

Let's look at some of the variables and exceptions that make the watering problem in the home difficult to cope with:

Large plants take up more water than smaller ones and may need watering more often.

But, smaller plants are usually in smaller pots with less soil which means less water can be absorbed by the soil.

A plant in a warmer part of the room may dry out faster than one that is cooler.

Plants receiving more light may take more water from the soil.

Plants in clay pots may dry out faster than those in plastic or glazed pots.

And there are many other possible reasons why the soil in a pot dries out.

The only conclusion we can draw, then, is to treat each plant as an individual. Give it water when it needs it by feeling the soil.

This, of course, relates to plants that are watered from above. The extra precautions of using tepid water and not wetting the leaves should also be given. But it should be remembered, that you can still give a plant too much tepid water and kill it with kindness.

Many people attempt to solve the watering problem by watering from below. If the beginner desires to do this, recommend first the wick method — part of the wick in the soil and the remainder in a reservoir beneath. But add the extra precaution that the plant should be watered at least once a month from the top as this will wash down the accumulation of salts on the surface of the soil which result from evaporation.

Danger can arise from the "saucer" method of bottom watering. As a result of my television appearance I had several letters in which it was stated: "They get plenty of water, I keep the saucer filled all the time!" The plants, I imagine, either are very sickly or dead with this kind of treatment.

The best advice you could give a beginner who wants to water by the "saucer" method is to empty the saucer after the soil has soaked up all the water it can use. And, only give more water when the soil dries out. It's very easy to go around to all the plants every morning and fill the saucers but it's a sure way of losing a collection of plants.

Of course, there are exceptions and you can expect to hear a comment: "I do it that way and my plants are fine!" But if you look into the matter a little more you will most likely find that there is an inch or so of charcoal, broken flower pots or pebbles in the bottom and the water is absorbed through these materials just as if they were a wick. But as a general rule, it would be best to channel your growing methods away from this type of watering procedure.

So far I have made it quite difficult to give any instructions to a beginner. But there is one phase where you can say something definite — that's when it comes to feeding the plant. Your answer to the question of whether the plants should be fed is "Yes," and you can give them a regular schedule.

During the months when the plant is in most active growth — when light and temperatures are most favorable — they should be fed more often than during the colder, darker winter days or the hot dry summer months.

The answer to "How often?" is more during spring and fall than during winter and summer.

But this is where the simplicity ends, because the next question will be, "What kind of plant food should I use?"

As New Products Editor of FLOWER GROWER I receive information about all the tools, equipment and supplies available to gardeners — my file on plant foods is literally bulging at the seams! And, most manufacturers today not only have their regular garden fertilizers, but special mixes for lawns, roses, broad-leaved evergreens and African violets. In all honesty, I could not say that one is better than another. I personally have used dozens with equal success — no doubt you have, too. So, what are you going to tell a beginner? The safest answer is to tell him to select an African violet plant food and mix it exactly as the manufacturer suggests. Apply twice as often in the spring and fall as in winter and summer.

Most of the prepared African violet plant food are solubles — dissolved in water before

used. When mixed right, they can be applied twice a month during spring and fall and once a month in summer and winter.

Of course, you can give your own personal feeding recommendations and most beginners will welcome these hints from an "expert."

But you can also give a word of caution: The mere application of plant food will not cure any ills that are due to poor growing conditions such as poor light, lack of water, too much water or unfavorable temperature. Also, like ice cream, too much of a good thing is worse than none at all. Caution a beginner not to overfeed — if in doubt, skip a feeding.

Once a person has an African violet plant or two growing well, and sometimes even before, they soon find out that they are very easy to propagate. I imagine that the process of starting young plants, either from seed or cutting, is one of the most fascinating and enjoyable things about gardening. It is here that gardening takes on the creative pattern which many people look for in their leisure time hobbies.

The most difficult thing to exercise in propagating African violets is restraint. I, myself, fell into the normal feverish dilemma when I first started growing African violets some ten years ago. My results were the same as many experienced beginners even though I considered myself a trained horticulturist — many beautiful young plants but all the same variety! I am sure that once you explain the whole process and the evolution of a leaf cutting the beginner will heed your suggestion.

It would be a very safe bet to say that a good majority of people start their first African violet leaf cutting in a glass of water with a paper cover held in place by a rubber band with one or more leaves protruding through the paper. I couldn't say how many were successful — many people tell me they use this method but if my experiences along this line are any indication, all I can conclude is that as many fail as are successful. I've heard many theories on the subject and after I've thought about them, I always go back to the method that has been best for me — starting leaf cuttings in a refrigerator dish or fish tank, using vermiculite or sand as the rooting medium.

There are many variations to this basic idea, but the most unusual came to me several years ago when I was talking before a local club. Part of my talk consisted of a demonstration on taking leaf cuttings and I was very careful to give the complete instructions. I thoroughly explained that it was important to take a leaf that was at the proper stage of growth, one that was not too young nor too old. Mature would be the better word. I also painstakingly showed how to cut the petiole leaving about an inch or an inch and a half. In the final part of the demonstration,

I showed how to insert the cutting in the vermiculite and placed a cover of glass over the top. Then I explained that it was necessary to check from time to time to see that the vermiculite had not dried out and also to give the cuttings a little air by raising the glass slightly during the day.

After I was thoroughly satisfied that I had given my audience the easiest and most successful way to start cuttings, a kindly lady spoke up and said that she used a method that was much easier and sure-fire.

Needless to say I was quite intrigued. Her method consisted of using a widemouthed jar, such as the ones that peanut butter come in. She put an inch of sand in the bottom and added water with a spoon until the sand was thoroughly soaked. Then she put her cuttings in and screwed the lid on tight. The jar and cuttings were then put outside under a shrub all summer. Never once did she look at them. In the fall, she said that she had a jarful of small plants.

After hearing this, I smiled politely and said that her method was very interesting. But, I was curious and was determined to try it. In late June, I fixed up a jar as she described, sealed tight, and put it under one of my shrubs. In August, when I looked at it, I was thoroughly convinced that anything can happen in gardening. I, too, had a jarful of plants.

I still look upon this as an oddity and would not recommend it as a practice for the average beginner. There are so many factors that could go wrong to bring disastrous results.

There are some jobs, like starting leaf cuttings, that the average beginner will jump in with both feet, throwing all caution to the winds. Then there are jobs he knows must be done but is just not brave enough to roll up his sleeves and dig in. One of these hesitating jobs is separating multiple crown plants.

Of course, this is something that is up to the individual grower. Some people would never think of having anything but a multiple crown plant. It gives them quick growth, a good number of flowers and in general, a lot of plant.

But on the other hand, there are people who have multiple crown plants who yearn for the symmetry and perfection that is offered by the single crown plants.

Some growers offer separations which are actually single crown plants. Other growers pot the entire leaf cutting with the result that there may be three, five, even seven or eight plants in a pot when it is purchased. Separating them at this stage can be done with loving kindness as the roots have not yet had a chance to become entangled.

It's when the job of separation is delayed until the plants are of fairly good size that causes the

hesitation on the part of the grower. Here, the job calls for almost ruthlessness, and the assistance of a sharp knife.

I was showing a budding African violet enthusiast one time the method I use for separating a multiplant pot that had advanced beyond the easy pull apart stage. After I adantly knocked the plant out of the pot and some of the excess soil from around the roots, I used my knife to start cutting the root ball so that there was a little ball of roots for each plantlet. I explained to my pupil that the reason for cutting was that if we attempted to separate the roots of each little plant that we would most likely rip off more than we saved. Therefore we cut right through and more or less hope for the best.

When I had five little plants — each a single crown with its own ball of soil — all laid out on the table ready for potting, I expected to hear some "bravo's," but instead there was a murmur of "It seems so cruel."

Perhaps in the minds of some people it is cruel to trim back or cut apart a plant. This is all in the attitude we take toward our plants. We should love them, we should appreciate their beauty and should enjoy their presence. But we must also look upon growing them in a business-like way. I feel that it is this attitude toward the plant which is the mark of separation between the beginner on one side and the connoisseur or professional on the other. The connoisseur or professional, I am sure, appreciates and enjoys every plant he grows, but fully realizes that at times a poor plant must be discarded or destroyed and at other times mature plants cut up — not massacred — for their own benefit.

If we get back to some of the more vexing problems of a beginner, growing his African violets in the average American house, the leaves of the plant will get dusty and from time to time every plant will need a little house cleaning.

The question of wet foliage comes in again when we talk about house cleaning. It certainly doesn't sound very bright on our part if we tell a beginner in one breath that he should be careful when watering plants not to wet the foliage, then in the next to tell him that he can clean the leaves of his plant by placing it under the faucet — literally giving it a shower bath!

I'm afraid that's what some of us, and I'm including myself, are sometimes guilty of doing.

This, of course, calls for a little explanation before the beginner is convinced. You can call to his attention that the trouble is caused not by the water itself, but by the temperature of the water.

Cold water is the trouble maker! With this in mind, it is possible to wash the leaves of almost any African violet without the tell-tale, yellow water spots on the leaves. Here's the

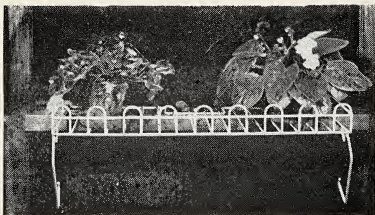
instructions you should bear in mind: Use tepid water, about the same temperature as the room, and be sure to let them dry off completely on the drain board away from sunlight before putting them back on the window.

On cleaning up a plant, it would also be a good idea to pass on the information that the dead flowers should be removed regularly. It is surprising how some of these things we take for granted must be explained to the beginner.

Please don't feel that I am degrading the beginner in any way. Weren't we all beginners at one time or another? Didn't we ask the same questions they are asking for the same reason? In their quest for success and enjoyment of African violets, it is quite likely that they already have a good idea of what to do, but are looking more for confirmation.

You know as well as I that I have just barely scratched the surface on African violet information. There is that whole subject of insects and diseases. Here is where a beginner is often very concerned and quite often unnecessarily.

It is true that there are insect and disease problems. This is something which shouldn't be denied. But these problems should not be given any more importance than they deserve. Perhaps I should explain this a little more. My experience with the problems of beginners indicates that his plant is more likely to suffer from poor light conditions, over or underwatering or undernourishment than it is from nematodes or cyclamen mites. Blaming failure on mite and nematodes is an easy out and one which many uninformed gardeners will take if you give them half the chance.



WIRE WINDOW SHELVES — Choice of white, black or pink finish. These attach to sill or top of lower sash, without screws. 18" size only (Ill.) fits over lock. Postpaid prices: 18" x 8½" — \$2.29 each or two for \$4.25; 24" x 10" — \$2.49 each or two for \$4.75; 30" x 10" — \$2.95 each or two for \$5.75.

We are also headquarters for **LIFETIME** white plastic markers, Gibberellic Acid, A. V. soil mix, Protectotape, Identotabs, Wire tables, fluorescent lights and other supplies for growing African violets. Free price list.

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HARVEY J. RIDGE

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This doesn't mean that a beginner shouldn't be told about these pests. He should, but he should also be told that unless the pests are introduced to his through another plant, he is unlikely to have them. We may get the feeling that a mite or nematode infestation comes out of thin air, but you and I know that they don't.

The two key words to be given to a beginner, or anybody growing African violets for that matter, when it comes to pests are **caution** and **sterile**.

Caution in the sense that you should be cautious of every plant that comes into your collection even if it comes from your very best friend or the most well-known grower in the country. Give the advice that all newcomers should be set away from all other plants until you can ascertain for sure that it is free of all pests.

Sterile is almost self-explanatory. You should always advocate sterilizing soil and thoroughly cleaning or even sterilizing pots. (Don't try baking plastic pots — they melt.)

So far I have been telling you things which the beginner should know. Much of this is "old hat" to many of you but to many beginners it is the means for success and enjoyment of African violets.

You might say that there are many other things we could tell a beginner. For instance, I have made no reference whatsoever to soil, except the fact that it should be sterilized.

This is one of the phases of growing African violets which could lead to confusion among beginners. Even though the salient points are quite clear to you, it must be remembered that information is best given in small doses and by degrees. For example, discussing the chromosome count and hybridizing problems with a person who has just acquired his first plant would make no greater impression than a lecture on calculus would to a group of third graders.

The more we delve into a subject such as African violets, the more we enjoy them. And, quite often nothing pleases us more than to expound on some choice bit of obscure information we may have read. But with beginners we must remember that they want to creep before they walk and walk before they run.

A straightforward, simple answer is what they are looking for — though we can't always give them what they want. Too many but's, however's and other exceptions will do nothing to promote the success and enjoyment of growing the plant.

Your main object in answering any question or in giving any advice or information is to help grow one successful plant. The enjoyment from that one plant is generally enough to make another enthusiastic hobbyist — someone else to promote success and enjoyment of African violets.

end

TRANSPORTING PLANTS

Marie Dannemiller, Barberton, Ohio

Plants grown in the home are so hard to pack without breaking off any leaves. The best way I have found to do it is to put a depth of coarse shredded paper the height of the flower pots into a large box, make holes to set the pots in, and the leaves will rest securely on the paper. It is even possible to overlap the leaves without fear of damage, just be certain that the plant that goes in last comes out first.

A large sheet of tissue paper over the shredded paper, with holes to accommodate each pot, will prevent paper lint on the leaves.

end

CHLORINE TREATED WATER

Freeman Weiss, Washington, D. C.

The question has frequently been asked if water that has been treated with chlorine is harmful to African violets.

Chlorine is a gas and is almost insoluble in water. As used in water supplies, it is only entrapped in the air that is dissolved in the water and it escapes very rapidly after the water is drawn from the pipe.

Just as bubbles of air often make freshly drawn water appear cloudy but disappear after the water stands a few minutes, so will chlorine rapidly escape, and if the water is allowed to stand over night it will be practically free of chlorine and will be safe for plant use.

end

FLORALITE FEATURES

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ing. 48 in. Fluorescent Light, 13 in. reflector, 2-40 watt tubes, cord and plug. \$11.50 plus \$2.50 for postage and packing. 2 year guarantee on ballasts.

Legs to convert either above fixtures to table lamp, 18 in. rubber tipped. \$2.00
We make fluorescent fixtures any size or length to order.

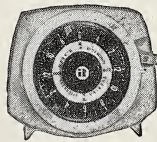
NEW DUALITE a combination of incandescent and Fluorescent lights. Made especially for African violets. 48 in. 13 in. reflector, 2-40 watt tubes, 2-15 watt sockets, with cord and plug. \$13.50 plus \$2.50 for postage and pack-

GARDENING INDOORS UNDER LIGHTS by Frederick & Jacqueline Kranz \$4.95



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Just set and forget. Your lights will go on and off automatically. No more light worries. Special \$9.50 Postage Paid.



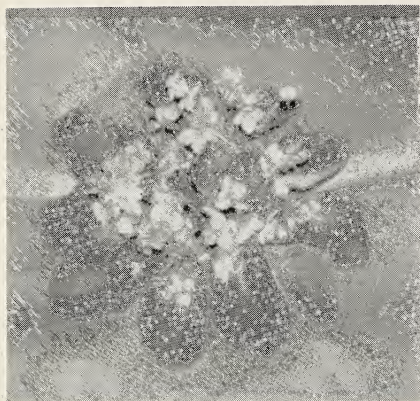
Lustrous Hi-Impact Polystyrene Trays Lt. green or grey. Send for prices and sizes.

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NEW VARIETIES TO COME



PINK AND GOLD from Arndt's Floral Garden, Troutdale, Oregon.

Large, scooped semi-girl type foliage in a bright green, very glossy tone, silver undersides. The plant produces a huge amount of large, clear pink blossoms which deepen around the huge gold, not yellow, eye. Blooms are sweet pea shaped, growing ten or more to the stem. Each leaf has two stems under it, both open at once, and one in between each leaf. Petioles are very strong, pencil thick. Plant grows very symmetrically.

FROU FROU from Edena Gardens, Walnut Creek, Calif.

Pure white double, flowers of medium size and in clusters of six to ten to the stem, all opening at about the same time. Flower stems are long enough to hold the blossoms well above the foliage but are strong enough to keep the clusters from drooping. Foliage is a medium dark green. Leaves are round with strong petioles, have a smooth margin and a glossy sheen.



STAR GAZER from Tinari Greenhouses, Bethayres, Pa.

New and different semidouble type blossom of longevity. White with distinct starry blue edge, flowers appear in clusters with great profusion. The leaf is of glossy medium green, slightly quilted, long tapered, wavy edged.

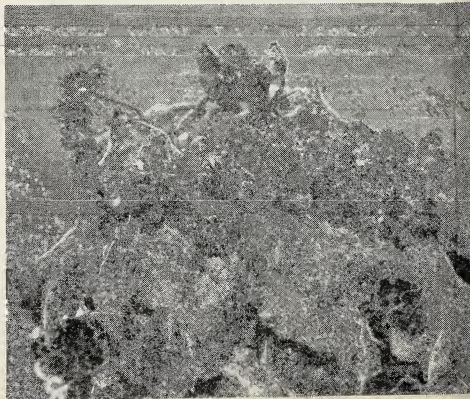


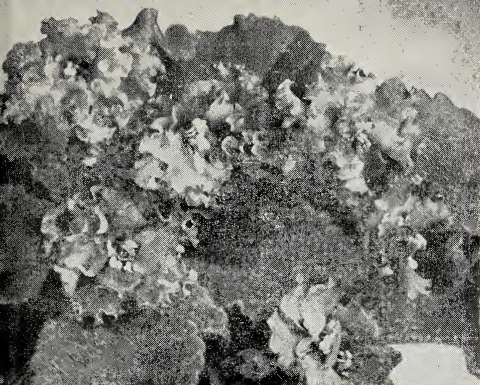
Above, **CERAMA** from Ulery Greenhouses, Springfield, Ohio.

Prolific bloomer, bicolor, incurved flower. Top petals deep cerise shading to a soft cerise in lower petals. Leaves are medium size, semiround, slight serrated edge. Wholesale trade only. See Editor's Message page 3.

Below, **LOVE KNOT** from Lyndon Lyon, Dolgeville, N. Y.

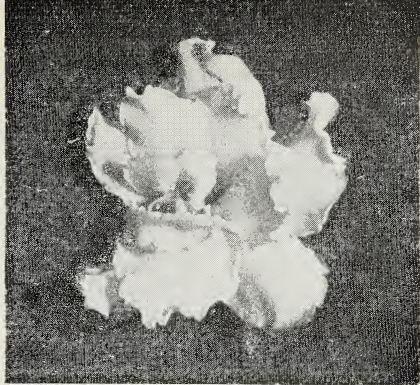
Large velvety purple flowers with fully green edges. Beautiful, soft, quilted, dark foliage.





MINNEAPOLIS DOUBLE from Fischer Greenhouses, Linwood, N. J.

A striking double, frilled purple, large flowers, most of which have attractive yellow pollen centers. A prolific bloomer. First shown at the Minneapolis Convention.



THORNY LOVE from Violet Treasure House, Springdale, Arkansas.

This came from several years effort for the impossible yellow. It is a pinkish-creamy-white double, frilled perky petals, with a noticeable center. Plain, rather pointed leaf. Plant does not become big and spreading but remains a nice window size.

Below, SO SWEET from Select Violet House, Youngstown, Ohio.

Available in quantity in 1958. It is a good grower and a good bloomer. Has wavy, medium green foliage. Double, frilled flower petals in shaded pink. Sometimes has a slight chartreuse edge when it first opens.



Above, CRINOLINE from Richter's Greenhouse, Hammond, Indiana.

A heavily fringed, deep pink bloom. It has glossy foliage, very dark, with deep red reverse. The foliage is interestingly wavy, and the plant will grow in a nice symmetrical shape.



Left, DRAGONFLY from F. M. Haga & Son, Charlotte, N. C.

Heavy blooming pale lavender, two top petals dipping forward with deeper lavender spot just under pollen. Attractive quilted foliage.

I can assure you the title, "Let's go to Pot," is not meant in the slangy sense. For as I look at this audience I see a group of friends who radiate African violet enthusiasm. So, I am sure you good folks are not going to pot — and I hope that I am not either. No, this subject was assigned as a discussion of pots in African violet culture.

Nature generously provides for these plants in their natural habitat. The floor of the tropical forest satisfies all the requirements of these exotic little plants, otherwise the Creator would have placed them elsewhere. However, some of us are apt to bungle when we bring African violets into our homes and attempt to keep them happy and contented. The majority of you folks, like myself, cannot pamper our plants as does Mother Nature — or even greenhouse culture. All of my African violet growing is done in our home so my plants have to adapt themselves to our home conditions just as your collection must adapt its self to your environment. Often they may suffer from the owner's carelessness and even occasional neglect; but from the total disregard of their rights by family pets, inquisitive baby fingers, and maybe even by unsympathetic tolerance of adult family members. These problems, if they are problems to you, are essentially your individual worries. But the pot and its contents are often general problems shared with all home growers.

LET'S GO TO POT

Naomi Weeks, Brockport, New York

Although Mr. Webster defines a pot as: "A vessel and its contents," I prefer to think of it as a safe container for a plant and its growing medium. The safety thought goes away back to my very first African violets, which were acquired — and lost — in the World War II period. My husband and I were both working in the city but dreaming of the green pastures of our youth. A fellow laboratory worker who was growing African violets in beaker glasses, gave me several baby plants, which I brought home in a paper cup. I planted them in one end of Marv's version of a farm, a large window box, in which he was growing onions. We each irrigated daily, our own section of the indoor farm, but my end of the box was low — and — well, you know what happened — they all died. I insisted on planting my next African violets in individual pots and even to having a separate window — my own small farm. From that day to this, I have been studying pots. I am a pot farmer!

Pots are available in as many materials as they range in sizes but they can all be grouped into two classifications — either porous or non-porous. As in everything else, some pots have definite advantages, and even in the same materials some pots may possess better growing

qualities. Many people have decided preferences for certain types of pots and each may function fairly well provided proper cultural adjustments are made. But the fact remains that the majority of all African violets are grown and marketed in either plastic or porous clay pots, so we shall confine ourselves to these two types. Greenhouse growers usually prefer porous clays — not because "grampaw used 'em" — but because when bedded or plunged in moist materials such as sand, spent tan bark, etc., or grown with a constant water level, the porosity of the clay and the process of evaporation through the pot sides probably helps air to move through the soil and around the plant roots. Certainly the plants can be more easily forced with additional food and heavier waterings. The danger from excess salts is minimized as long as the soil moisture level is maintained. The water carries the fertilizer salts, in solution through the soil, until the moisture evaporates. Then the salts crystalize and are deposited in the pores of the clay pot. Eventually they reach and discolor the outer pot surface. Many of us realize that this unsightly condition is unnecessary in our homes and make the change to nonporous pots for this reason.

However, let us pause a moment and give thought to the saline problem. What do you suppose happens when the soil dries and the moisture can no longer carry off the excess salts

through the sides or rim of the pot? Can you see these salts crystalizing in the soil and on the plant root surfaces? The roots will burn more readily than do the leaf petioles which touch the rims of clay pots containing too much salts. Please do not misunderstand my purpose in comparing porous and nonporous pots. We use both. We use the porous clay pots for propagation because we grow our cuttings in a cold basement where heating cables are a must. These heating cables are imbedded in moist vermiculite. The clay pots draw moisture from the vermiculite underneath, and when we touch a pot it feels warmer than a plastic pot. This we feel is not just imagination, although we have not actually taken the temperatures of the propagating medium, we do find that the little plantlets appear more quickly in the clays. Since 1953, all our plants are grown in plastic. We think plastic pots, in general, are superior to porous pots for home use particularly when growing violets on window shelves or dry beds. Plastics are lighter in weight, resist breakage, minimize petiole rot caused by pot-rim salt formation, are as sanitarily cleaned for reuse as a dinner plate — without scrubbing or boiling, require watering less frequently, and the outsides can easily be

kept clean and attractive. There is never an accumulation of dirty fertilizer salts, or algae, on the outer surface of the pots. The design of plastic pots usually encourages healthy root growth and also produces a more evenly distributed root system throughout the potting mixture. This is especially fortunate when one is unable to keep pots setting on moist beds. A good root system is the very first requirement in growing any plant. The best advice I ever received was from an old time greenhouse operator. He said, "Forget about the part of the plant above the soil and, instead, concentrate on the part below the surface. Because when good root growth is obtained and maintained — the top automatically takes care of itself." This fact is easily demonstrated if you have a plant which is not doing well. Knock it out of the pot and examine the roots. You will invariably find they are few in number or poor in color.

At this point I wish to restate the definition of a pot as: "A vessel and its contents." I feel it is time that we take up the most important factor — which is the contents or growing medium in relation to the type of container in use. The growing medium or soil has two functions. It serves (1) as a support for the plant structure and (2) as the plant's warehouse of food, air, and moisture. If you discuss soil mixtures with ten different growers, you are apt to discover eleven entirely different pet recipes and violets may thrive to some extent in all eleven but six months later if you meet the same ten people you may find they now have discarded all the old pet recipes for new ones. None are satisfied and are still seeking for the perfect medium. All of which proves that African violets are far from being as temperamental as some would have us believe. It is surprising how very tolerant and long suffering are these plants. This reminds me of a violet trip we made years ago in search of the elusive yellow violet. One of our customers had mentioned a lady, seventy or eighty miles distant, who sold lovely violets and who was supposed to have a yellow variety. We were gullible, and the following Wednesday we left bright and early to locate — what we hoped would be our first yellow treasure. After several wrong turns we arrived at Violet Haven. A charming elderly lady welcomed us and proudly displayed her collection — including the yellow violet. Sure enough, the blossom center was definitely yellow but the color was due to extra pollen sacks. Our disappointment was soon forgotten because we discovered what, to us at the time, was an amazing condition. All of the lady's violets were growing in tin cans — and all were lovely plants. The size of cans ranged from small baby food cans to commissary type gallon cans — just any container she was able to find or receive. We came home with a small Blue Boy plant — especially potted in a fairly new tin — or at least one showing little rust. We gasped as we watched her plant the baby in her pet dirt recipe. She picked up the can, rushed outdoors

to the gravel road, scooped up some pebbles into the can, dashed over to a fence corner under a tree, picked up some partly decayed leaves, crushed them in her hands and dropped them on top of the pebbles, went over to the edge of her vegetable garden and finished filling the can from the good earth she scraped up. Dashing back into the house she emptied the contents of the can on her kitchen table. Threw some of the pebbles back in the bottom of the can — mixed up the balance with her fingers, placed the plant in the can and poured her pet mix in, lifted up the plant a little bit and bounced the can on the table to settle or pack the dirt around the plant roots. While she gently watered the contents she cautioned us against ever giving the plant too big a drink, and told us the plant would do better if it was not fed until next spring. It was not necessary to ask if we should water from the top or bottom because that can had no drain holes. It had to be top watered. I believe we were still laughing when we arrived home. However we placed the plant in our isolation ward — and you know that thing continued to thrive until I foolishly repotted it in a porous clay pot. I lost it shortly afterwards because the roots dried out too often. The dirt simply could not retain sufficient moisture when used in a porous pot because cultural conditions were not adjusted. I have used the little old lady's term for her growing medium but you folks must never, never, speak of African violet soil as dirt. Dirt is what the children track into the house right after you have cleaned. 'Member?

Actually, friends, the pot and growing medium is merely a substitute condition for Africa's forest floor.

Regardless of how tolerant the African violet may be to adverse conditions, if we desire to obtain maximum growing results we must approach nature's conditions as nearly as possible.

You may well ask, what are these conditions? Temperature, light, and humidity are very important factors but they are outside of my topic. I will refrain from commenting on them. Our concern now is the soil mixture. In its natural habitat the African violet luxuriates in the well drained areas built up by layers of leaf mold and decaying forest matters. This forms a very loose humusy soil, teeming with bacteria which supplies food for the plant's requirements and allows the air to freely enter and circulate through the soil and around the plant's roots. These are the conditions we must strive to emulate. Originally, African violets were grown in clay pots. Over the years, through trial and error methods a fairly satisfactory soil mix was developed for these pots. Invariably it was roughly $\frac{1}{2}$ organic materials consisting of rotted manures, leaf mold, or peat moss and $\frac{1}{2}$ inorganic materials such as loams, or sand with such added fertilizers as the grower's fancy might dictate. The success these mixtures attained can probably

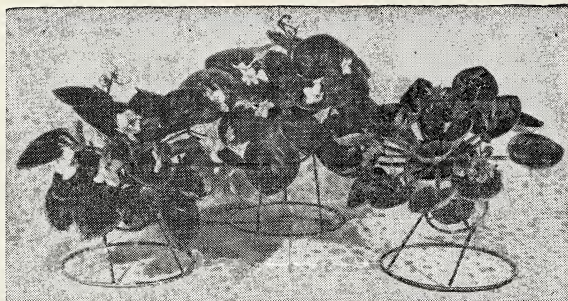
be attributed to the movement of air and moisture through the porous clay pots if the soil did not become compact or sticky. The public quickly reached for plastic pots, when they became available, and in many cases growing troubles soon developed. Of course plastic was blamed for these troubles. And unfortunately many people still believe they cannot grow violets in plastic pots. We were among the first to clamor for plastic pots — we wanted nice, clean, white ones for our window sills and benches. Like many other growers we failed to consider the necessity for cultural adjustments. One of the first plants I potted in plastic was a large and lovely Autumn, I wished to grow for a show. The darn thing didn't dry out in three weeks — guess you know what happened by then. It never made the show. I was quite discouraged, and possibly I should have been disgusted with plastic pots, but I liked them even if I couldn't grow plants in them. I decided, then and there, that I would learn to use them successfully.

So back I went to my greenhouse adviser — the one who told me to grow good roots and forget about the plant. His first remarks were, "What would happen to you if your lungs were full of water? Well the same thing happens to a plant's roots when the soil is too wet. The water forces the air out of the soil spaces and in time the roots actually smother. Naomi, you must provide aeration for the soil. Use a lighter, more porous soil." He dumped some sandy loam on a potting bench, added sand and quite a bit of leaf mold, a small amount of sphagnum moss, and a small amount of vermiculite. While thoroughly mixing these ingredients he cautioned me to place plenty of charcoal in the bottom of

the pot for drainage and not to pack the soil when planting. He suggested filling the pot to the rim with loose soil, placing my thumbs over it near the plant stem for support to keep the soil from spilling out, then to gently bounce the pot on the table to settle the soil around the plant roots. For the same reason it would be advisable to gently water the plant from the top for the first two waterings. From that day to this we haven't lost any plants attributable to plastic pot culture. We have fooled around with dozens of mixes since then — but have always tried to maintain the one essential factor for growing in plastic — namely a light porous soil. In many of these mixes we attempted to incorporate sufficient food to last the plants for six or seven months or until time for repotting with fresh soil. However, these attempts did not entirely satisfy us. With either organic or inorganic fertilizer additives we were at the mercy of outside cultural conditions. Also, with inorganics we were confronted with the dangerous saline problem.

We spoke of salt crystalization in relation to porous pots. This problem is even more dangerous with plastics because the excess salts can not travel through the pot walls and escape. Hence when the moisture level is diminished the salts crystalize on the root system and plant areas. Violets have a very low tolerance for salts, only 200 ppm. The very best method for eliminating danger is to only use soils low in salt content and never to overfertilize. For this reason we have discontinued the use of leaf molds, manures, certain peats and all other materials containing variable amounts of salts. We were quite happy this winter to learn of the

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Standard 2½"

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2 heights . . . 4" & 6"

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University of California's exhaustive soil studies and to find scientific approval of our theories. We found in their book — "The U.C. System for Producing Healthy Container-Grown Plants" — the most interesting study of soil problems we have encountered. The U.C. System combines varying portions of sphagnum peat moss and extremely fine sand. This type of sand is not available to us so in its place we substitute Perlite together with shredded redwood tree bark — both of which are excellent built in air conditioners for growing mediums. The peat and the bark are both acid but we find no necessity for altering the pH level. The only fertilizer we incorporate in the mix is the amount recommended by the Dept. of Floriculture at Cornell University, ½ lb. of limestone (for calcium) and ½ lb. of 5-10-5 fertilizer to 4 bushels of mix or about 1 small teaspoonful to each 3 quarts. Our saline test shows only 49 ppm — and both we and the violets are quite pleased. Additional fertilizer is only required as the plant depletes its reserve supply. This supply can be maintained with an occasional light feeding depending, of course, on the speed with which the plant is growing. One lovely feature of this soil mix is that it is nearly impossible to over-water as long as the plant is not allowed to sit in water — thus preventing the free flow of air in the soil. The combination of plastic pots and this type of mix requires less frequent watering. However, as is true with any type of culture, a violet's root system should never be allowed to dry — it should always be slightly moist. Another necessary precaution, when potting up plants in any soil containing a large amount of peat, is to have the soil moderately moist before using it. Because, if a soil is too dry the peat will expand when watered and will compact the soil thus slowing down proper air circulation.

No summary is, I believe, necessary on clay pots because you are familiar with this type. However, allow me to sum up the only basic requirement for using plastic pots successfully. It is simply "a well drained, light, porous, humusy soil — and that's all. Period!" end

PLASTIC FLOWER POTS

AND VIOLET TUBS

Twelve colorful, sturdy, heavy-gauge plastic Flower Pots, 2½" across top, or 8 African Violet Tubs, 3", for \$1 postpaid! Lemon Yellow, Green and White, assorted. 3 drain holes for better root growth. 1959 catalog included, tells low prices all sizes by dozen or hundred. 60 illustrated pages of unusual hard-to-find equipment and supplies for African Violets, all greenhouse and indoor plants. Send \$1 now!

THE HOUSE PLANT CORNER

Box 969

Oxford, Maryland

GIBBERELIC ACID TRIAL

Rev. Nelson Garcia, Hopkinsville, Kentucky

I have tried Gibberellic Acid on my violets and I have noted that the slow and dormant type violets have immediately responded and buds are appearing all around.

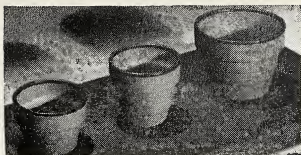
I also noted that the plants bend toward the light in just a matter of hours and I must turn them daily for a balanced plant.

Also note that the leaves all reach upward.

Have used spray (Gibrel) on three crowns in water and Hyponex solution. Noted that leaves are green and crisp as if they have been in a salt solution that dried on them.

My experiments have not been long enough for a real test. end

WINDOVER FLOWER POTS



THE MOST BEAUTIFUL RED CLAY FLOWER POTS MADE

Squatty		Our Customers Say, "The Best I have ever seen!"	
3	in. 14 for \$2.20	Most sizes are in the lovely stepped design. Unequalled for quality. All have treated rims to protect stems and leaves of plants. Any shipping breakage replaced unless sent insured.	
4	in. 10 for 2.20		
5	in. 6 for 2.20		
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Semi-squatty		Clay Flower Pots in Color Green, red, yellow or white baked-on enamel. Following sizes only:	
3	in. 14 for \$2.20	3" semi-squatty 10 for \$2.20	
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5½	in. 5 for 2.20	Black Plastic Pot Saucers	
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		3 " 14 for \$1.80	
		4 " 10 for \$1.85	
		5 " 6 for \$1.50	

WINDOVER POTTING SOIL

Made especially for African Violets with flaky leaf-mold (mostly oak) plus woodland top-soil, crushed sandstone, peat moss, woodashes, bone meal, superphosphate and charcoal. Will not pack. Sterilized with LARVACIDE to eliminate nematodes and other soil-borne troubles.

4 lbs. \$1.15 9 lbs. \$2.25 13 lbs. \$2.85
COARSE VERMICULITE preferred by many growers over the finer Terra-Lite for rooting leaves.
8 quarts \$1.00 24 quarts \$2.00
LIFETIME WHITE PLASTIC POT LABELS, 4½":
75 for \$1.00 100 for \$1.25 500 for \$5.50
EVERMARK LABEL PENCILS 20¢ each
EVERYTHING POSTPAID EAST OF DENVER

If west of Denver, Colo. add 40¢ postage for each unit or set of pots or saucers ordered. On soil, and vermiculite write for amount of postage needed west of Denver. Sorry, no C. O. D.'s please.

THE WINDOVER CO.

Box 3033-A

Evansville, Indiana



Basement plant room.



Our daughter Valerie with Spellbound.

From Leaf To Show Plant

Mrs. Douglas J. Harrington, Minneapolis, Minn.

Raising an African violet to become a National Silver Cup winner is a very gratifying experience. I received this honor at the Tenth National Convention in 1956. The winner was Ruffled Queen, which I raised from a leaf given to me by my sister in 1951. The Queen is almost eight years old now and is still one of my favorite plants.

I would like to tell you of my method of growing an African violet from leaf to a show plant.

First of all, I select a firm, unmarred leaf of medium size — not the lower or the older ones. The stem does not exceed one and one-half

inches and is cut on a slant. I do not use a rooting or hormone powder, but let the cuttings heal for one-half an hour. Next they are placed in colored glass containers such as green or brown prescription bottles and filled with rain water. This may seem to be an unnecessary step to some, but I have never lost a cutting when I used the rain water rooting method. When one-half inch roots have formed in the rain water, the leaf is transferred to a rooting medium consisting of equal parts of Perlite, vermiculite, charcoal, peat moss and a small amount of sterilized potting soil. The rooted cuttings are then placed under GREEN fluorescent tubes. The green lights hasten the rooting process. After about ten days the cuttings are fed with Atlas Fish Emulsion at one-half strength. The little plantlets form in a very short time. They are separated when they are about one and one-half inches high. Then they are planted in flats in rooting medium with a little more soil added and placed under fluorescent tubes, one daylight and one warm white.

In about three weeks the small plants have taken on growth and have a strong root system. They are then planted in two inch clay pots in sterilized soil. These young plants remain in the small pots until they have bloomed for the first time. They are then shifted to three inch pots, the pot rims having been wrapped with aluminum foil to prevent petiole rot. Suckers are removed as they form, and all spent blossoms are taken off.

My introduction — Valhalla



TELL YOU WHAT

NEW MEMBERSHIPS and RENEWALS — should be sent to the treasurer, Myrtle Radtke, P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tennessee. Make all checks payable to the African Violet Society of America, Inc.

NEW MEMBERSHIPS and RENEWALS of AFFILIATED CHAPTER MEMBERS — should be sent to Maxine Wangberg, 303 S. Central Avenue, Harlowton, Montana. Please pay your dues through your Chapter treasurer if you are a member of a Chapter.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS — send your new address at least 30 days before the issue with which it is to take effect. Send old address with the new, enclosing if possible your address label.

BACK ISSUES OF MAGAZINE — write the African Violet Society of America, Inc., P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tennessee for a list of those in stock. Not all magazines are available as back issues. Do not send money until you get the list. Make check payable to the African Violet Society of America, Inc. Cost \$1.00 per copy.

ADVERTISING RATES — are available from Floyd L. Johnson, 183 W. Gibson Street, Canandaigua, New York.

AFFILIATED CHAPTER INFORMATION — write to Maxine Wangberg, 303 S. Central Avenue, Harlowton, Montana.

MAGAZINE BINDERS — write the African Violet Society of America, Inc., P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tennessee. Two for \$6.50 postpaid.

JUDGING SCHOOLS — for information about holding a judging school to become a qualified judge write Ruth G. Carey, 3900 Garden Drive, Knoxville 18, Tennessee.

AWARDS FOR SHOWS — write Maxine Wangberg, 303 S. Central Avenue, Harlowton, Montana.

CLUB NEWS — send all club news to the Club News editor, Maxine Wangberg, 303 S. Central Avenue, Harlowton, Montana.

SHOW NEWS — send all show news reports to the Show -- News and Views editor, Eunice Fisher, Route 3, Box 168, Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

PLANT REGISTRATION — write Constance Hansen, Box 302, Lafayette, California.

DEADLINE DATES FOR MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS — for September issue, June 1st; December issue, September 1st; March issue, December 1st; June issue, March 1st.

PHOTOGRAPHS — cannot be returned unless by previous agreement with the editor.

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY PIN — may be purchased from the society pin chairman, E. Pearle Turner, 828 Kenmore Boulevard, Akron, Ohio.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION BLANKS and BROCHURES — specify number required when writing the Society, P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tennessee.

COLOR SLIDES and CLUB PROGRAMS — write librarian, Maisie Yakie, P. O. Box 674, Port Arthur, Texas.

DUES — \$4.00 for a 12 month period. The Magazine is included in each membership.

SPECIAL AWARDS — DETROIT 1959 CONVENTION

A partial list of Special Awards for the African Violet Society of America's Annual Convention Show, 1959 in Detroit. A complete list of Special Awards will be published in the Convention Pink Sheets in the December African Violet Magazine.

Granger Gardens Award \$25 to exhibitor with the three best specimens of the following Granger introductions: White Madonna, Black Magic, Pale Waverly, Cavalier, Rose Wing, Blue Nocturne.

Madison Gardens Award \$25 for best specimen Sleeping Beauty.

Mrs. Sam Nichols Award \$25. \$15 for best Tennessee Pink. \$10 for 2nd best Tennessee Pink.

Select Violet House Award \$25. \$15 for best specimen So Sweet. \$10 for 2nd best specimen So Sweet.

Tay-Bow African Violets Award \$50. \$25 for best Bud's Kimberly. \$25 for best Bud's Pink Begonia.

Violet Treasure House \$25 Award to exhibitor with most blues or firsts on the T V Series varieties. If as many as 20 or more are won, the award will be \$35.

I do not use plastic or wooden labels when grooming a plant for show as the foliage has a tendency to curl around the marker. In place of this I use a small piece of masking tape, plant name written thereon, and put it on the aluminum band around the pot rim.

Keeping the foliage in symmetric form rarely presents a problem when plants are grown under fluorescent lights, but if a leaf or two strays from its place toothpicks are very helpful to ease them back into their proper space.

The larger growing varieties such as *Ruffled Queen* and other *Supremes* are usually transferred to four inch pots.

I believe a regular feeding program is very essential in growing show plants. *Atlas Fish Emulsion* has proved to be very successful in every way in my estimation. My violets are fed every three weeks, with the exception of the summer months.

As a preventive measure I spray all of my plants monthly with *Plant Marvel Spray* or *NNOR*.

I am a firm believer in the de-budding of African violets when grooming plants for shows. This is done three months prior to the day of the show for standard varieties and four months prior for *Du Ponts* and *Supremes*. After the de-budding process the violets are placed on the outer fringe areas of the lighted tables. Very gradually they are brought into full light until about six weeks before show time when they are placed directly under the lights with the tubes about ten inches from the top of the plants. The light fixtures are automatically timed and are operated sixteen hours a day. With very few exceptions the violets are blooming profusely by show time, but remember, it is very important to supply plenty of light the last six weeks. I do not guarantee that this method will be successful for everyone. With proper growing conditions it has proved to be highly satisfactory in my case.

To sum up, the most important factors in growing African violets are: be sure that your small plantlets have a strong root system before transferring them from the rooting medium to soil; do not over-pot; use a loose porous sterilized soil; water intelligently and only when the top soil is dry; use a regular fertilizing program; last, but by no means least, furnish good strong light.

In closing may I add this: A well-groomed blooming African violet is a joy to behold, be it a blue ribbon winner or not. The personal satisfaction derived from raising such a specimen is ample reward for the grower. end

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HOW WE SELECT OUR SPEAKERS

Alice G. Watters, Lancaster,
New Brunswick, Canada

In our club we have twenty members. We do not meet during the summer in July or August. This makes ten months we do meet. We write out the names of the months of the year, in which we meet, on two pieces of paper; so each member will have two slips of paper to draw. Then these are placed in a box and the two members who draw the same month have to prepare the program for that month.

It is so interesting and helpful to get other people's ideas. Ordinarily many members would probably sit in the background with nothing to say because they are shy — but not in our club — they can't.

No member of our club can wonder why we don't have such and such a program — because each member has an opportunity to prepare one herself. end

— SECOND REVISED EDITION —
LAVENDER COVER

"AFRICAN VIOLET HANDBOOK FOR EXHIBITORS AND JUDGES"

Information on show plants, show procedure, color classes, judges and judging, African violet arrangements. Scale of points for judging specimens, arrangements, etc. \$1.00 PER COPY

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AFRICAN VIOLETS

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THE LITTLE THINGS COUNT

Helena Pearl Thomas, Walnut Creek, California

When asked to give a talk at the dinner meeting of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., I was nonplused at the thought of speaking before such a distinguished audience. Then came the thought, I would merely be chatting with friends. I am truly humble, yet proud, I have been so honored.

First of all, I would like to bring you greetings from the many members of our African Violet Societies on the Pacific Coast. Washington, Oregon and California now have more than forty Affiliated Societies and new Societies are being formed yearly.

Many of these societies have sponsored judging schools and countless local African violet shows. Some of these shows are on a large scale and some are smaller displays. These societies have been generous with their gifts to hospitals and many other worthy causes.

Regional councils have been formed to promote a greater efficiency in support of various activities connected with African violets.

While the Pacific Coast does not have many large commercial growers interested in hybridizing, there are many amateurs and smaller commercial growers doing much constructive work in developing new and improved varieties.

Pacific Coast societies are friendly and cooperative and all would welcome a National Convention held in the west. We would then have the opportunity to show the African violet world our western originations. Although western varieties may not be as well known to the African violet world as many eastern and mid-west varieties, we feel they compare favorably both in quality and attractiveness.

I feel sure the Pacific Coast, as a whole, will be happy to join with northern California in extending a warm welcome to the National Convention and share our enthusiasms.

My first introduction to an African violet occurred several years ago. I was serving in the capacity of a private nurse. My patient was convalescing from a long illness. I had casually noticed some plants sitting on the windowsill. I thought they were very attractive with their bright blue flowers and unusual foliage. One day I found my patient before the sink drain-board which she had carefully covered with newspaper. Spread out on the paper was an array of clay pots, bags of soil and bits of the plants I had previously noticed and admired. Watching her procedure for a few moments I quietly asked: "What is going on here? A major operation?"

"Oh no," she replied, "I've been intending to take care of my dear little violets for quite some time. See, they have developed multiple crowns and I'm dividing and placing them in separate pots." At that time multiple crown plants was a language I knew nothing about. I did know about surgery and as I watched her this appeared to be a major operation. I shuddered as she kept on pulling the plants apart. Truly, I often wondered how her "dear little violets" survived the operation.

A few years later I was brought in contact with the African violet world in a much greater degree. I married an African Violet Grower and a greenhouse. I've made a sincere effort to learn more and more about these lovely and fascinating plants. Until I began to grow African violets it was always a source of wonder to me, why, many people, will start with one lovely plant, which, no doubt was a gift, and in a short time have every available space in their home filled with violets.

Now I must get to the topic assigned to me. "The Little Things Count." There are so many little things that count with this delightful hobby of raising African violets. In the short time allotted to me I can only mention a few. I would like to say this. I believe, if we give a part of our human endeavors when growing African violets we will be repaid a thousand-fold and this includes everyone who handles violets. Both the commercial and the amateur grower.

It seems to me Love has a great deal to do with the successful growing and handling of African violets. Let us analyze or perhaps I should say break the word Love down into a spectrum and see how its rays apply to growing and handling of violets.

Let us take PATIENCE as the first ray in the Spectrum of Love. Patience is a vital factor in so many ways. When you look at, and breathlessly admire the lovely show plants which you will find on display as you enter the Exhibit Room tonight, please try to realize that the amateur growers have showered rays of patience on their plants for many months, training the plants for their perfect leaf patterns above which is a crown of jeweled blossoms. Perhaps they have watched some of them grow from a tiny seed to a beautiful specimen plant, carefully watching over them just as they would a beloved child. What patience it took to make all those lovely flower arrangements which you will see. Think about this as you look at their exquisiteness. Now let's look at the commercial growers'

displays with all their artistry of arrangements. I assure it took hours of patient growing and planning to produce all of this magnificence. Each one is proud of his achievement and you cannot make me believe that all of those lovely plants are not equally proud of their beauty. Do they not have life? Yes they do. God or Love created them.

KINDNESS is the second ray in the Spectrum. There are so many ways to project your rays of kindness. A word or an act of kindness always returns to you in some way; perhaps you may even receive a dividend. You will know what I mean if anyone of you has ever walked into the ward of a Veteran's Hospital and looked at the long rows of hospital beds with our boys lying upon them, searching for ways and means to occupy themselves. I've taken boxes of African violets to them and placed one or several plants on the stand beside their beds. Showed them how to care for them, water, fertilize and groom the plants, even how to repot them. The boys' faces light up with pleasure and anticipation. They are eager to learn. I've not dropped the violets in their laps and walked away and left them, I have gone back to see what progress they have made with their plants, to answer their questions. I have seen the boys' improvement both mentally and spiritually. I can tell you they were indeed grateful for this little kindness.

Perhaps a little child may come to your door. He has a serious look on his face. He tells you in his childish way: "I want to buy a violet for my mommy's birthday. I only got a dime. It's my allowance for this week." Do you turn him away? Of course not. You set out several plants for him to choose from and after he has made his choice, you wrap the plant in a gay piece of tissue paper. The little child goes home wearing a grin which spread from ear to ear, to make mommie happy because he has thought of her. Now you have sown a seed of kindness and your day is happier for this deed.

We will place GENEROSITY as the third ray in the Spectrum. This is such a joy both to the giver and the receiver. One of the fine friendships I've made came about through the generosity of a very busy man. He answered a letter in which I had asked for some information. The correspondence has been kept up through the years and not long ago a telephone call came through to us from England because he wanted to share his birthday and his family with us. The call was from Mr. George G. Wicks and his family. Many of you have read his articles in our National Magazine regarding growing African violets in England.

It's such a pleasure to invite visitors into your home, be generous with your time and your smiles. Graciously listen to the many interesting things they have to share with you. If they are violet enthusiasts your talk may soon turn to violets and you may share with them a leaf

or a plant if they greatly admire a certain variety. It pleases me, no end, to have someone admire a plant in the greenhouse, to give him

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ALETHA MARTIN — Large frilly double white with blue-edged flowers held well above medium green foliage. Leaves \$1 each.

McTAVISH — Large frilly double blue flowers on strong stems, held well above dark, red-backed foliage. Heavy bloomer with about 50% chartreuse edge. Leaves \$1 each.

DOROTHY JEAN — Large free-flowering double white with chartreuse markings in the top and lavender in center of flowers, held well above medium green foliage. Leaves \$1 each.

STRANGER — Large free-blooming white with frilly blue edge, single. Strong stems, medium green leaves. Leaves 75¢ each.

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ANNALACEA — Double medium blue flowers on dark red-backed foliage. Leaves 75¢ each.

The following are crosses on two champions — Cobalt Blue Hi-Loa and White Madonna. Leaves are 50¢ each.

MAMIE — Heaviest blooming white double on strong stems, held well above plain foliage.

CHIEF BURNETT — Large dark blue frilly double, free flowering on strong stems held well above wavy, red-backed foliage.

JOAN — Free flowering fringed single white, held well above wavy, medium green foliage.

McGINTY — Free flowering frilled light blue, double strong stems and dark, wavy girl foliage.

MILDRED — Light blue with dark blue center. Free blooming single, held well above dark, wavy red-backed foliage.

CUPID — Free flowering, frilled double white with strong stems and wavy girl foliage.

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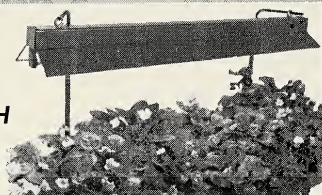
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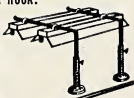
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Bench stands accommodate 2 Grow-Lites, as shown



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Are you satisfied with your present African Violet potting mixture? If not, we suggest that you try our ORGANIC MIX.

You will be thrilled when you see the wonderful root system, vibrant color of bloom and healthy plants that it is possible to grow in this mix.

Packaged for shipping at \$3.50 per bushel in that quantity only — Freight collect.

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a small plant of that variety as a surprise gift, just as he is leaving. A grateful letter of thanks costs only a four cent stamp, which you send to a commercial or amateur grower which you have had the pleasure of visiting during the year. They, in many cases, have given you of their time and knowledge. Or if someone comes to you with problems she is having with her plants you can be generous with her and share your experiences by telling her of the many things that goes into the making of a beautiful African violet. A carefully packed box of leaves arrives for you through the mail. The giver has been so thoughtful and generous and sent them as a surprise gift. A shipment of plants arrive and in the box is an extra gift plant. I ask you this question "Is it not better to give than to receive? Which gives you the most pleasure and satisfaction?"

HUMILITY is the next ray in the Spectrum. We all are proud of our African violets and each believes he has cause to be proud. You may have started with thinking about THE LITTLE THINGS THAT COUNT. For example take hybridizing. At your first beginning you may be confused, lukewarm and indifferent. You cannot see how you are going to produce a better violet. You are humble about the whole thing. Then you begin to think and one thought and action follows another and several months later you have a lot of seedlings and perhaps a new variety. Now, you wish to improve on this variety. You become inspired, then accelerated and a better one is brought forth. WHAT BEAUTY CAN COME from a tiny seed! Success did not come in a tremendous surge but the LITTLE THINGS YOU DID WERE THE THINGS THAT COUNTED. Now you offer your seedling to the violet world and humbly pray that someone has not produced a like variety before you did. But if by chance they did you are happy for them. Why not tell them so? Compliment them on their success.

COURTESY is the fifth element or ray in the Spectrum. How often have you had some piece of work in your hands, perhaps you were in midst of watering your violets and a customer arrived. It is so easy to be preoccupied and brush them off with your short replies and gruff mannerisms. You may put yourself in the position of losing a good friend as well as a customer. They may ask, what seems to you, some foolish questions about violets, but always remember they would not be asking questions if they were not eager to learn more about the ways and means of growing good plants. The memory of many courteous African violet growers is often taken out of my treasure chest of memories. The great pleasure they gave me as they gave of their time and knowledge and helped to make my trip a memorable one. On my trip to my first National African Violet Convention we arrived at a growers' nursery about 9:30 in the evening, perhaps even later. We were invited in and although there were no lights in the green-

house one was made available and it was my great privilege to have a preview of the display of the beautiful plants they were taking to the convention. A midnight snack was also served to us in a friendly kitchen. I felt just like Alice in Wonderland must have felt as she stepped through the magic looking glass but I had stepped through a hospitable door into flower heaven. So the quality of courtesy is most important to each of us.

UNSELFISHNESS comes next in the Spectrum. It is another one of the LITTLE THINGS THAT COUNT. Unselfishness brings to my mind the unselfish giving of many of our talents, to our wonderful National African Violet Society. Until one has had the extreme pleasure of being one of the many guests at a convention you can not begin to realize the unselfish giving of time. There are so many things to do months in advance, to make everyone happy. Much "labor of love" goes into the commercial and amateur growers preparing their attractive displays. They bring plants of many new varieties for us to see and take home with us. The hybridizer brings their plants for everyone to see and admire. The committees laying the groundwork for a successful Convention, each and everyone giving loving thought to their appointed duties. This also holds true, of the local and state shows given each year. So much careful preparation that each of us may enjoy ourselves. Our officers devote much time and thought to what is best for the organization as a whole. Our delightful National African Violet Magazine is carefully assembled from the articles which are contributed by the members. There are so many things that go to make up the whole, I do not have time to mention all of them. Then when the Convention is over and we return to our homes, scattered far and wide, memories are taken out of our treasure chest and many happy thoughts return

to us which we have the extreme pleasure of sharing with those who were not fortunate enough to attend. We tell them about the new varieties, but please do not forget the older varieties, about the happy greetings of old and new friends, the many informative meetings at the Convention. So many things happening in such a short time. Each individual attending the Convention gives something of themselves and when we return to our homes we give our memories to those who are eager to know about all the things we did and the things we saw. We have had our happiness in getting and in return we give and give and give.

GOOD TEMPER is the seventh ray of the Spectrum. Good temper is a leveler of all things. A smile and a cheerful word of explanation will in nearly every case erase the thought of bad or evil temper. Many times one gets up in the morning feeling at cross purposes with the whole world. What can one do? Here is a suggestion. Before you take up the duties of the day, why not look at your beautiful violets and partake of their serenity; you might work with them for a few minutes. It's a wonderful therapy for bad temper. If you find something in the meetings of your society you do not concur with, please do not become bitter and talk out of turn, you could take the joy out of the meeting for someone else and there could be a wee bit of jealousy or hurt pride in your thoughts and your remarks. The better way would be to think on good things and give yourself the joy of telling someone else what a fine piece of work he had accomplished. "Knowledge is awareness of the fact that fire burns, but wisdom is the remembrance of the blister."

GUILELESSNESS is the eighth ray of the Spectrum. It is a great secret of personal influence. Who influences you the most — why,

CORRECTION

"Fresh-cut leaves" of all varieties listed in our ad on page 3 of the June issue should be 35¢ each.

ADDITIONAL NEW VARIETIES FOR FALL SHIPPING

Fresh-cut leaves @ 35¢

Rooted-Cuttings @ 75¢

All our rooted-cuttings are shipped in pots as an undisturbed root-system aids their development.

ANNIVERSARY WALTZ—Delicate dbl. pink fused white.
AUNTIE HONEY—Nice dbl. pink. Flat girl leaf.
BLACK CHERRY, DBL.—Large, but not as dark as the single.
BLUE FLAG—Nice blue with dip or wave in each petal.
BOBBIE—Nice large ruffled dbl. blue. Tailored foliage.
DBL. DESERT ROSE—Free blooming pink.
KENORA—Dbl. pink on dark girl foliage.
MARK ROBERT—Huge white star fused with blue.
MELODY AIR—Dbl. white with wide pink edge.

PINK GENEVA—Rounded pink petals with starry white edge.
RAMONA—Fringed dbl. pink, on wavy, dark foliage with red back.
RIPPLING REDWING—Fluted intense dark red on wavy bronze foliage.
ROYAL CHIFFON—Fringed frosted blue. Gorgeous foliage.
ROYAL NOCTURNE—A Supreme of our favorite "Blue Nocturne."

These NEW CHOICE VARIETIES * Leaves @ 50¢ Rooted-Cuttings \$1.00

AFTER GLOW—Red-pink dbl. Best seedling at National Convention.

MONTREY—Fringed deep pink dbl. Gorgeous, wavy, bronze foliage.

PEGGY—Huge dbl. lavender. Dark veined and quilted foliage.

RED GLOW—Large, deep red-pink single. Tailored foliage.

SLEEPING BEAUTY—Huge dbl. white with orchid. Supreme.

Minimum Order shipped must total \$3.00 plus \$1.00 for postage and packing. (50¢ on leaf orders)

KROGMAN'S VIOLETRY

1365 East Parkway Drive, South 125th Street

Brookfield (Milwaukee) Wisconsin

it is the people who believe in you and have faith in you; think no evil of you. We all have faith in ourselves if we love completely. This can and should be a ray of the spectrum which should shine forth with brilliance in everything con-

QUADRA POTS AND TRAYS

Plastic planters in compact square design. The Quadra Pot and Quadra Tray combined to make an attractive window sill planter is ideal for African Violets and all other house plants desired. These pots are superior in every way to all others we have, so far, found and offered to our customers.

QUADRA POTS — UTILITY COLORS

2 1/2" "	25/\$1.25	50/\$2.25	100/\$ 4.00
3 " "	25/\$1.50	50/\$2.75	100/\$ 5.25
3 1/2" "	25/\$1.75	50/\$3.25	100/\$ 6.00
4 " "	25/\$2.00	50/\$3.75	100/\$ 7.25

Utility colors are marbelized and may vary from time to time. Grey, greens or mottled shades. We have no control over, nor can we guarantee any specific colors on these.

COLORED QUADRA POTS

2 1/2" "	25/\$1.50	50/\$2.75	100/\$ 5.25
3 " "	25/\$1.75	50/\$3.25	100/\$ 6.00
3 1/2" "	25/\$2.00	50/\$3.75	100/\$ 7.25
4 " "	25/\$3.00	50/\$5.50	100/\$10.00

These are in white, yellow, red, green.

QUADRA TRAYS

Mix or Match your Quadra Trays with your Quadra Pots. These come in two sizes only and are so designed to fit as a cover for dry bulbs or seeds, as well as being used for a saucer.

3 1/2" "	25/\$1.50	50/\$2.75	100/\$ 5.25
4 " "	25/\$1.75	50/\$3.25	100/\$ 6.00

Colors — black, white, red, green, yellow.

ROUND POTS — UTILITY COLORS

2 " "	25/\$1.00	50/\$1.75	100/\$ 3.00
2 1/4" "	25/\$1.25	50/\$2.25	100/\$ 4.00
2 1/2" "	25/\$1.35	50/\$2.50	100/\$ 4.50
3 " "	25/\$1.50	50/\$2.75	100/\$ 5.25
4 " "	25/\$3.00	50/\$5.50	100/\$10.00

ROUND SQUATTIES —

UTILITY COLORS

3 " "	25/\$1.50	50/\$2.75	100/\$ 5.25
3 1/2" "	25/\$1.75	50/\$3.25	100/\$ 6.00
4 " "	25/\$3.00	50/\$5.50	100/\$10.00

PLASTIC SAUCERS

These are in black only and made to fit the above Round and Squatty Pots.

#2	25/\$1.00	50/\$1.75	100/\$ 3.00
1 1/2" #2 size fits — 2", 2 1/4", and 2 1/2" Pots.			
#3	25/\$1.25	50/\$2.25	100/\$ 4.00
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nected with African violets. We are all here at the Convention to learn and enjoy ourselves. The mere fact that we are here denotes that we have come for that very purpose. A sincere compliment is among the finest gifts one can bestow but be very sure it is sincere. Be a credit giver where credit is due.

Someone asked whether giving credit did not swell some people's heads. The reply came quickly. "Sure — one in fifty, perhaps, but such people would swell up anyway, and life takes care of swelled heads quite effectively. I'm interested in the other forty-nine." Just try looking for the opportunity to give, not just ordinary giving, but the little treasures of SELF that money cannot buy. Be frank and honest but temper your thoughts with Love.

SINCERITY is the last ray in the Spectrum of Love. It is wonderful to "rejoice in the truth." We all should strive to know the facts and receive these facts with an unbiased mind. Are we not all in partnership together, working as a team of researchers? This gives us, as a whole, the ability to grow and explore new fields in everything connected with both local and the National African Violet Society. If we do not work sincerely we are filled with restlessness and discontent. So let's each of us be sincere in our seeking for and doing the many things we may have the privilege of doing for our wonderful African Violet Society of America.

In closing I would like to leave this thought with you.

"Keep us . . . from pettiness; let us be large in thought, in word, in deed. Let us be done with fault-finding and leave off self-seeking. May we put away all pretense and meet each other face to face, without self-pity and without prejudice. May we never be hasty in judgment and always generous. Let us take time for all things; make us grow calm, serene, gentle. Let us put into action our better impulses, straightforward and unafraid. Grant that we may realize it is the little things that create differences, that in the big things of life we are at one; and . . . let us forget not to be kind." end

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THE TV STORY

Margaret Vallin, Beaumont, Texas

My venture into the field of hybridizing started with the purchase of a dollar package of mixed African violet seed in 1951. The seeds were sown in the usual manner on a bed of damp vermiculite with coarse charcoal for drainage. Germination was good and soon there were plants with all kinds of foliage — plain, standard, girl, duPont and last but not least there was a plant with beautiful glossy, wavy foliage. From the beginning, even without blooms, this little plant was a standout. Although I did not realize it, I was watching the plant that was to become the grandparent of many beautiful fringed seedlings. This plant was "Texas Fringe."

Watching "Texas Fringe" develop into a beautiful symmetrical show plant made me long for more plants with similar foliage and a variety of colors. In November 1952 I selected a beautiful new variety, the blue and white variegated double called "Dark Beauty" for the pollen parent and "Texas Fringe" for the seed bearing plant. This cross would give me several colors but not pink. It did produce such plants as "TV Cut Velvet", "TV Stagline", and "TV Rose Prom".

More than anything I wanted a really pretty fringed pink. To get this recessive color I used my old standby "Texas Fringe" and a deep pink variety "Pink Cheer". From this cross all the plants had shades of blue or purple blossoms. There were many plain foliage plants and others with beautiful waved, dark green, red-backed

foliage. I selected the best of these "TV Swirling Petticoats" to be the seed bearing parent of the fringed pinks I was determined to get. For the pink parent I selected a plant with large round pink bloom and more compact foliage than "Pink Cheer", the pink parent in my first cross. There was another long wait for the pod to ripen. In our area it takes from four to five months. Eventually I had young seedlings — the plain foliage was dominant — and when they bloomed the colors were about fifty-fifty, half blue and half pink.

At last I had my fringed pinks and they were good! By selecting a larger pink blossom for this cross I had improved the size and shape of my fringed pink bloom. Such plants as "TV Vallinpink", "Clarissa Harris", "Dresden Dream", "Pink Petticoats" and "Pink Fog" resulted from this cross.

I had planned to ignore the plain foliage plants in this cross but among the first to bloom was a jewel of a plant with a deeper pink eye and a deeper pink edge outlining the blossom. In my tiny greenhouse I saw every plant bloom, and although there were several pink-edged plants, the best in this case had bloomed first.

In hybridization one cross suggests another. Different combinations may be made, always with the thought in mind of producing lovelier plants, brighter colors and larger, longer lasting blossoms. end

APHIS

Joy Hutson, Luton, England

Preventing aphid (green-fly) from frequent attacks on houseplants calls for continued action. It is maddening to spray a plant with insecticide only to find that in a few days the aphid have returned.

I am a firm believer in the old adage, that prevention is better than cure. My houseplants, which include a number of African violets, number about one hundred, and these are examined weekly with a magnifying glass. Perhaps I find only one lonely aphid, but that is a warning to take action. A stitch in time saves nine.

As my houseplants are in different rooms on three floors, I save myself many steps by doing the spraying on the spot instead of collecting and taking all the plants outside for treatment.

Opening wide the bottom window, each plant in turn is picked up and held as far as possible outside the window. It is then sprayed

thoroughly, underneath as well as on the surface. For these ablutions I use warm insecticide. Having previously placed paper on the window sill, I turn the Saintpaulias on their sides to prevent moisture from settling in the crowns. With most other houseplants this does not matter.

The spraying should be done on a dull and windless day, otherwise you will get drenched instead of the plant. I use a fine mist spray which holds about one-half pint of solution. The insecticide has to be one without sediment, otherwise the spray will clog and go out of action. There are many clear insecticides on the market.

After a warm day the plants are treated to a light spraying with very warm water which proves beneficial, as it discourages insects and keeps the plants free from dust. Newspaper is placed between the window and the plants to keep the spray from wetting the window. If a little moisture falls on the window sill it soon dries without harm to the paint. end

THE THRILLS AND HEADACHES OF A SMALL GREENHOUSE

Mary Margaret Odom, Marshall, Missouri

I was indeed honored to be asked to speak to you this evening, and of course I am very happy to be here. When Mr. Cook called to ask me to come I hesitated to accept, because I knew I was not a good public speaker, but I did promise to let him know the following day. Even then it gave me butterflies in my stomach just thinking about it. Later in discussing it with the children, Bobby, our fifteen year old son, said very sympathetically, "Go on Mother, and when you get up there just tell them you are scared, they'll understand and probably even feel sorry for you." The thing that encouraged me the most was knowing that most of you, who would be listening, would be housewives just like myself.

Benjamin Franklin said, "The man who does things makes many mistakes, but he never makes the biggest mistake of all — doing nothing."

Personally, I very much prefer passing my information on to you through writing, as I have done in my recent book, "AFRICAN VIOLETS & THEIR FAMILY." That way I can carefully weigh and choose each word. The results to me are much more satisfying. The material published in my book was written, read, reread and much of it rewritten several times, but now that it is finished I can look at it with pride for I feel that it was well done. While often after giving a talk I remember things that I meant to say, things I could have said, things that I should and should not have said but then it is too late to do anything about it.

I do not claim to be a writer anymore than I do a public speaker. My purpose in writing is to pass on to others the things I have learned.

As I think about African violets I am reminded of the first leaf that a friend gave me, before that —

I never knew the joy or peace
An African violet could release,
Until that leaf I planted — watched, with awe,
And then the lovely blossoms saw.

As the foliage so gracefully spread,
A feeling of peacefulness seemed to be shed.
Yes, African violets are a gift so rare.
Their joy, with others, we should share.

My subject for this evening is THE THRILLS AND HEADACHES OF A SMALL GREENHOUSE. A small greenhouse to most flower lovers is truly a dream house. It was to me for a number of years. Then in 1950 we moved to Marshall, Missouri, and bought a small brick bungalow, which had steam heat with a radiator

in front of every window. There wasn't one spot for a single plant. I liked the house too much to want to sell it, but I also liked my flowers too much to give them up, so in desperation we built a small greenhouse 13x13 feet. By the time it was completed it cost about \$1200.

I operated this little greenhouse until last June when we moved into our new home. I did not move it because I am now teaching and it was impossible to do them both justice.

To me —

My greenhouse was a sweet retreat
From all the daily cares,
A place where God seemed close to me
And where little seedlings start,
From springtime until springtime —
They grew the full year through.

As the saying goes, "All that glitters is not gold," and I assure you that even a small greenhouse, like most things, has its headaches as well as its thrills. It is indeed a thrill to any flower lover to step into a greenhouse, regardless of its size, of beautiful blooming African violets.

The first thing to ask yourself before buying a greenhouse is, "Do I have sufficient outlet for my plants to merit the need of a greenhouse?" Now, most people will say, "Oh, I want a greenhouse just for my own pleasure. I don't want to sell plants." Little do they realize that in a greenhouse African violets multiply as rapidly as rabbits. It wouldn't be any fun to me to raise them until I got the greenhouse full and then just sit and watch them grow larger and crowd each other more. To enjoy my greenhouse and violets the most I wanted to be able to keep putting leaves down, planting seeds, potting and shifting plants. Each plant I sold or gave away I got a thrill as I saw the new owner carry it proudly away. Some think when they put up their greenhouse that they will give their plants to their friends; this is fine and I gave many plants away each year, but soon you will realize that repairs, and improvements are necessary, operating expenses often run higher than was originally expected, eventually an outlet for plants becomes a necessity. Don't misunderstand, — I do not mean that only commercial growers should have a greenhouse, mine was used strictly as a hobby and a place to experiment.

The second thing to consider is the type of a greenhouse you want. There are many types of greenhouses. The free standing, the lean-to, the wood and metal frame glass houses, and the new plastic greenhouses we hear so much about today. Consider them carefully before deciding on one. Mine was free standing, a wood frame glass house, and I liked it fine. The lean-to is the most popular. It is not only the least expensive to buy but also the easiest to build because it is really only half a greenhouse. When well located it becomes a part of the house itself, and isn't usually too difficult to heat.

In trying to decide on the type of a greenhouse to buy I am reminded of the old maid who couldn't decide whether to buy a divan or the

arm chair. When the clerk trying to be helpful said "Lady, you can't make a mistake on a nice comfortable chair like this." The old maid quickly replied "O. K. I'll take the divan."

Carefully consider the location for your greenhouse. Too, often we are so thrilled with the hopes of getting a greenhouse — that we are willing to put it just anywhere. This is a mistake; if a good foundation is prepared it will be a permanent location as they are very lasting. So stop and consider the many trips you will make to the greenhouse each day. If at all possible connect it to your home; if this is impossible then locate it as near the house as you can.

The first major problem to consider after you have located your greenhouse is heating. This can definitely be a headache. Probably most of you remember the article in the March issue of the African Violet Magazine by Catherine B. Shepherd, of Arlington, Va., in which she told of her heating problem which turned out to be caused from combustion of the burnt gas with not enough oxygen. I had similar trouble with my first heater which had an offset pilot. I learned the hard way that the pilot must be enclosed in the combustion chamber. I used oil a couple of years when our gas pressure was too low to use gas. It was certainly a headache in the spring and fall, when little heat was needed through the day, carbon would form so badly that I had a constant cleaning job of the pipes, and other parts of the stove. Mrs. Shepherd spoke of regretting that her heat had to come from

under the benches. If you are living in an area where natural gas is available, you are most fortunate, because an ordinary gas heater with the pilot enclosed in the combustion chamber is very satisfactory. By all means have a thermostat control installed with your stove, so that you have automatic control of the heat at all times. The glass in a greenhouse permits it to heat and cool rapidly. If you do not have automatic control, at night as the temperature outside changes, your stove will need adjusting several times to keep an even temperature. The same thing is true during the day when the sun may shine for a short while. A thermostat will do all this for you and save you many trips each day to the greenhouse. Your plants will do best with an even temperature. They seem to prefer a temperature of around 70°. One winter I kept my thermostat set on 60° with good results; however, I did not water in late afternoon and I was very careful not to over water.

Now in a greenhouse, everything essential to healthful growing conditions is under your control; nourishment, light, heat, fresh air and moisture. It is your ability to handle these factors that makes plants grow hale and hearty. Each is of equal importance and closely related to the condition of the others. The atmospheric conditions in the greenhouse are controllable by watering and ventilation in relation to the temperature and intensity of the sunlight. The maintenance of a good atmosphere in the greenhouse is most important. The air in a green-

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house that is kept closed up, either through
neglect or to save fuel, may frequently become
dry and burned out when the heat is on, and
damp and musty when it is off. Plants cannot
thrive in bad air any more than people. So it
would be much safer to leave the ventilators wide
open, and to turn off the heat, than to have
an unhealthy atmosphere. It is in the fall and
early winter when weather is very changeable
that most care is needed to keep the air in the
greenhouse fresh and healthful.

Good ventilation is essential at all times even
in cold weather. Never permit cold air to blow
directly on your plants as it will streak and mar
the foliage. Usually the opening and closing of
the door a few times each day is sufficient to
provide fresh air during the cold months.

A big help, and definitely worth every cent
they cost are automatic ventilators, which are
controlled by a thermostat. You simply set the
thermostat for the maximum amount of heat that
you want in the greenhouse, usually 5 or 10
degrees more than the thermostat to your stove.
As the weather outside warms and your green-
house becomes warmer than desired your venti-
lators will open to cool the greenhouse, to the
desired temperature, and then close again as
soon as the temperature has been lowered to the
desired degree. This too saves many steps and
is an excellent protection against overheating
even in the winter time.

Even with automatic control of your heat as
well as of your ventilators you still are not safe
nor free from headaches, because if your stove
goes out for any reason, and high winds often
cause the pilot light to go out, all may be lost.
After having my plants chilled twice, I had the
third thermostat installed and connected to our
doorbell. This thermostat was set on the
minimum amount of heat desired, usually 50
degrees. If for any reason the temperature got
down to 50°, our doorbell would start ringing,
invariably it was between 2 and 3 o'clock in the
morning, but it did save my plants from being
chilled many times in the spring and fall when
it wasn't cold enough to need a fire all the time.

Often, I have been asked how expensive is
heating a greenhouse. Our home was a six room
brick bungalow, well insulated, and not hard to
heat. We found that it took about an equal
amount of heat to heat the greenhouse as it did
the house.

African violets like plenty of moisture, and
it is not hard to get plenty of humidity in a
greenhouse. Plants do well with humidity from
35 to 75 percent; however, 60 to 70 percent
humidity is considered best for good growth and
blossoms. It is this extra humidity that gives
you larger blossoms and helps them to last
longer. Too much humidity may be harmful, as
the moisture condenses when the temperature
drops at night. It wets the foliage when evapora-
tion is slow, and causes injury in the same way

as over-watering, making plants less resistant to disease and insects. Also, too much humidity is likely to encourage fungus growth and cause excessive rotting of the leaves. My favorite method of furnishing humidity in my greenhouse during the winter months was to keep a bucket of water on top of the gas circulator; of course this water did not get hot enough to boil making steam but it was the constant evaporation that created the moisture.

The use of an electric fan to circulate the air in a small greenhouse, basement, or even in your home is highly recommended, especially if your plants are close together, or if you are having trouble with rot.

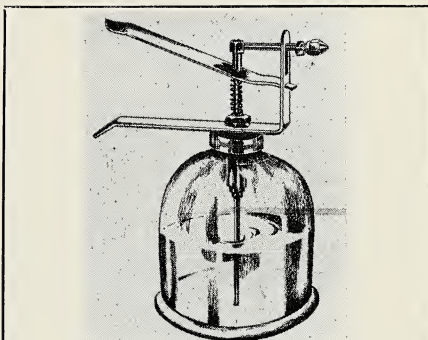
A complete floor of concrete or stone throughout the greenhouse is not advisable because it absorbs too much heat, when the sun is shining, and makes the greenhouse too hot. Plain earth under the benches absorbs moisture and aids in maintaining the required humidity. During the seasons when I had difficulty keeping the humidity high enough I kept the earth under the benches moist, but during the season when the humidity was high I let the dirt under the benches dry out. While a complete floor of concrete or stone is not advisable concrete walkways are wonderful.

Much of the popularity of the African violet is due to its tolerance to very high daytime temperatures of 100 to 115° in summer months if given adequate shading to reduce the high light intensity and if the soil is kept slightly moist. In fact, African violets even like air conditioning.

The amount of shading needed must be determined by observation of the growth and development of your plants. A certain amount of shading, even if slats are used on the outside of your greenhouse, is needed in the summer to protect plants from the burning rays of the sun. It also helps to keep the greenhouse 8 to 10

degrees cooler. A thin grade of muslin or a cheesecloth may be used successfully. White-wash or thin paste of flour and water are inexpensive methods of shading and may be applied on the outside for temporary shade, or on the inside for more permanent shading. White lead from white house paint may be thinned with gasoline and applied with caution to the outside of the glass. Commercial shading compounds may also be purchased.

Light is no problem in a greenhouse for there is plenty of it, instead your shading becomes one of your main headaches. When considering your shading problem keep in mind that the same amount of shading is not needed throughout the year. For instance, during the dark, cloudy winter days very little shading is desired, but as the days grow brighter with spring more shading is needed. I preferred to line the inside of my greenhouse with thin muslin early in the spring, usually in March. This was usually sufficient until in June then I applied a coat of medium shading to the outside of the greenhouse. This with the muslin gave the protection needed through the summer months, the fall rains would wash some of the outside shading away, usually



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it wasn't necessary to remove the muslin until in December. This left the greenhouse as light as possible through the dark cloudy days during the winter, again in March I would need to line the greenhouse with the thin muslin, etc. This may sound like quite a chore but it is not so bad. Just remember, "The germ of discouragement can best be kept away by plentiful doses of enthusiastic efforts."

Watering in the greenhouse is no less a problem than watering in your home. All the same things must be considered, the kind of pots, the soil, the amount of humidity, the temperature, etc. Water itself is often the problem in a greenhouse, most of us prefer to water with warm water but few think of that when they plan their greenhouse. Most of us are so happy to get a greenhouse that we are willing to carry water, but this gets tiresome after awhile, especially during the winter months. After carrying warm water for three years for my greenhouse, I installed both hot and cold water in it, which was ideal, and if I was building another today I would certainly plan to have both hot and cold water included in it. Be sure that your pipeline is put below frost so that you will not have to worry about it freezing.

Electricity is definitely needed in a greenhouse, it was a very important item in mine. In fact, mine was wired with three circuits, each with its own outlet. One was controlled from our back porch, and the ceiling light in the greenhouse was plugged into it. Another was wired so it could not be turned off at all, the stove thermostat, the automatic ventilators, and the thermostat to the door-bell were all plugged into it, and the third could be turned off and on in the greenhouse, the fluorescent lights under the benches were plugged into it.

Carefully plan the space in your greenhouse. It is very important to have a place for things. You will need a container for soil and probably you will want one for vermiculite or other growing medium. You will need a place to sterilize your soil, and store it. Some of this may be more convenient in the basement of your home. You will definitely need a place to pot plants. In the small greenhouse it is very important to put every inch of space to the best use possible. You may or may not want extra shelves for plants above your benches. In my greenhouse I had a shelf under my benches, with fluorescent lights above the shelves. I had trays, each holding about twenty three inch pots, these I used on the shelves. Here I started all my leaves and small plants. I also had shelves above my benches for my larger plants. In my small greenhouse I had a gas circulator, a bench the length of the greenhouse on each side and a smaller center bench, a box of vermiculite and a bucket of dirt, and I kept about 1000 plants all the time, which varied from a good sized blooming plant to a tiny plantlet. I had no work space but when I had potting to do I took a card table out. It fit

perfectly in the walkway and by covering it with several layers of paper I had an ideal place to work.

Insect control in a greenhouse is no serious problem, because it isn't too difficult to fumigate. I was especially careful to not take any insect or disease into my greenhouse. Nothing that had been outside during the summer ever got into my greenhouse in the fall. Constantly some good friend was wanting to give me a plant they had had outside in the summer and hated to see freeze in the fall. In spite of my caution, I usually fumigated in the late fall when I was ready to close up for the winter. I never left the door open even in the summer, as it was far too inviting to the cats and dogs in the neighborhood. But of course the ventilators were open all through the summer months and it was not uncommon to find a grasshopper, or results of where one had been, sometimes it would take hours or even days to locate and catch it. They not only would eat the foliage but also the blossoms. They were my worst insect enemy.

Disease control is not so simple in the greenhouse, because the high humidity encourages many of the rot diseases which affect our African violets. I have seen entire benches in even large greenhouses ruined from an attack of rot of one type or another. Nematodes in your benches can do much damage too, for this reason I had each pot in an individual saucer instead of sitting on sand in the bench.

Everyone with a greenhouse will be interested in having a few other plants that thrive under the same conditions as African violets. Most of the members of the African violet family will, some are truly beautiful while others are just as interesting. I still have a naegelia, and a couple of episcias. One of my favorites is the gloxinia even though they do require much room. Besides these most of the begonias will do well, the Rex are quite profitable because their beautiful foliage sells them while quite small. One of my favorites of the Rex is the American Beauty. Fittonias also do well, if given extra water, and my bougainvillea was beautiful and admired by everyone.

SILVER CUP WINNERS

The highest Amateur Award given by the African Violet Society of America, Inc., is the Silver Cup. It was first awarded in 1952 and has been won by the following plants:

- 1952 Red Waves
- 1953 Pink Delight
- 1954 Emperor Wilhelm
- 1955 Emperor Wilhelm
- 1956 Ruffled Queen
- 1957 Pink Ideal
- 1958 White Pride Supreme

end

Yes, I enjoyed my greenhouse very much!

When I was sad and troubled
And needed a helping hand —
I'd go into my greenhouse
And there, with God, I'd stand.

As I admire the plants in their places
They would smile and nod to me,
And in their pretty faces,
Only happiness I would see.

My cares and troubles were forgotten
Not one could I recall —
For I had walked with God awhile
Within my greenhouse walls.

However Now —

My violet room is a pleasant place
In which to work and rest.
Of all the places I have known,
It seems to suit me best.

Within this sheltered sacred spot
I find many happy hours —
Among the treasures gathered there
Are my violets' many lovely flowers.

A better place for me to dwell
'Twould be hard to find,
Because I feel it is quite swell
That violet room of mine!

Do not be discouraged if you do not have a greenhouse or even a desirable spot in your home to raise your plants for many people today are enjoying a greenhouse right in their basement. Select the desired spot, plan your tables, benches, etc., to best suit your needs. Then hang two 40 watt daylight fluorescent lights 15 to 25 inches above each bench. It really doesn't matter where we grow them as long as we enjoy it and make friends in doing so, for if it were not for the friendships made through our African violets many of us would not be here this evening.

The closing thought that I would like to leave with you is: "If all our misfortunes and headaches of raising African violets were laid in one common heap, whence everyone of us must take an equal portion, most of us would be content to take our own and depart." end

CHARTREUSE EDGES

"The only way that I know of to intensify the chartreuse edge on an African violet blossom," says Dr. Sheldon C. Reed, in response to a question by your editor, "is to cross pollinate the varieties of African violets most strongly showing this characteristic. Then, one should select the resulting seedlings with the most pronounced green edging. These seedlings may be re-crossed if it is desired to carry the program further.

"In selecting plants to use, it is advisable to choose plants that will hold their chartreuse edging in poor light." end

AFRICAN VIOLETS AND THEIR RELATIVES

Harold E. Moore, Jr., Ithaca, New York

African violets with many of their kindred belong in a family of plants which we call Gesneriaceae. More familiarly, they are often referred to as gesneriads. Coming as they do from the tropics of both hemispheres, they are not as well known to the botanist as plants from some of the temperate regions. In 1950, an incorrectly identified member of the family (known now to be *Episcia punctata*) was received at the L. H. Bailey Hortorium of Cornell University for study. The problems encountered in the identification of this one plant led to the study of all the cultivated gesneriads and eventually to the publication of *African Violets, Gloxinias, and their Relatives*.

Although we now know much more about those gesneriads that are cultivated than we formerly did, problems continue to arise as new members of the family come into cultivation from far parts of the world. Thus our work at Cornell continues and expands. My principal interest is in the identification of the plants, but Dr. R. E. Lee is doing some breeding work, especially among the columneas and their close allies. He is also carrying on some of the cytological work that has been done in the past by Mr. Owen M. Rogers and Miss Catharine Fussell.

Many of you are concerned only with African violets or cultivars derived from a few species of *Saintpaulia*. Others of you have expanded your interests to include their relatives. Whether or not you grow some of these fascinating kin, I hope that you will enjoy seeing something of them. Listening to talk about kinds of plants can be dull business if the plants can not be seen. Since I do not have all the plants I would like with me, I will do the next best and attempt to portray the variety of form and color of gesneriads through color transparencies.

Let us commence, then, with some of the *Saintpaulia* species. First may I show you the original illustration of *Saintpaulia ionantha* as it appeared in 1893 and then a plant of *S. confusa* which was introduced with *S. ionantha* but which has only recently been named. For several years *S. confusa* was known erroneously as *S. diplotricha*. It differs in several respects from the latter species which has only come into collections in the past few years. *Saintpaulia orbicularis*, with its abundance of pale blue flowers, and the miniature *S. shumensis* also have very short stems like those of *S. ionantha* from which ~~most of the cultivars have arisen~~. *Saintpaulia Grotei*, *S. amaniensis*, and *S. magungensis*, on the other hand, develop elongate stems and are useful as basket plants or as cascade plants. Eleven species have already been described but there are others of recent introduction as yet unnamed, three of which are illustrated.

Other relatives which, like *Saintpaulia*, have only two stamens are *Didymocarpus*, exemplified here by a handsome species from Malaya once grown at Cornell, and the various species and complex hybrids of *Streptocarpus*. Some of the hybrids are used as bedding plants out-of-doors in our northern states. *Streptocarpus saxorum* comes from the region where *Saintpaulia* grows and makes an attractive plant in baskets or in wall containers. I have just come from Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, where a striking exhibit of this species may be seen.

Two genera form a group apart, characterized by woody tubers. They are *Sinningia*, to which the cultivated florists' gloxinia belongs, and *Reichsteineria*. Species of these two genera also cross to give us the hybrid genus *X Gloxinera*. Let us trace briefly the origin of the gloxinia from a variable species, *Sinningia speciosa*, normally with purple flowers but sometimes varying to red or white. Crosses between these color forms gave us improved slipper type gloxinias. Erect flowers caused by a mutation appeared later. The first cultivars were far less brilliant than the selection now available. Some of the other species of *Sinningia* are also grown: *S. regina*, *S. barbata* with its strange curved flowers, *S. eumorpha*, and *S. tubiflora* with flowers resembling those of tobacco.

Reichsteineria cyclophylla, *R. lineata*, *R. Warszewiczii*, and *R. cardinalis* give an idea of the genus. The combination of habit and flower form of *S. eumorpha* with red color from *Reichsteineria cyclophylla* is seen in the hybrid *X Gloxinera rosea*.

Another group of African violet relatives is characterized by scaly rhizomes. *Achimenes* is an important member of this group, with miniature species such as *A. candida*, larger plants such as *A. longiflora* from which many cultivars have been derived, red-flowered *A. coccinea* which has also played a part in the origin of cultivated sorts, and the rarer *A. pedunculata*, *A. Skinneri*, *A. mexicana*, *A. glabrata*, and *A. Ehrenbergii*.

Some other miniatures belong in this group too: *Diastema*, represented by *D. vexans*, and *Koellikeria erinoides*. Species of *Smithiantha* with brilliant flowers and handsome foliage have been hybridized extensively. The species themselves are rare but hybrids are numerous. The latter are among the best of the gesneriads. Intergeneric crosses between *Smithiantha* and *Achimenes* have given us the hybrid genus *X Eucodonopsis* illustrated in horticultural periodicals of a century ago.

And here also belongs *Kohleria* with the white and lilac flowers of *K. Lindeniana*, the orange-red and yellow of *K. bogotensis*, the rose of *K. amabilis*, and a variety of colors in hybrids. *Titanotrichum Oldhamii* from Formosa also has

scaly rhizomes. Its yellow flowers resemble those of *Smithiantha* somewhat but differ in technical details. And lastly, the real *Gloxinia perennis*, rangy in habit but lovely with its lavender flowers like Canterbury bells, belongs here.

Parts of the American tropics harbor brilliantly flowered species, often vines or creeping herbs, which are characterized by glands in the flowers. The various species and hybrids of *Episcia* are well known now. *Episcia punctata* and *E. dianthiflora* seem to withstand cold better than others; *E. cupreata*, *E. reptans*, and *E. lilacina* are grown as are the hybrids *E. X Wilsonii* and *E. X variabilis*.

Chrysothemis, *Alloplectus*, and *Nauticalyx* are usually erect herbs or small shrubs. *Nematanthus longipes*, with flattened brilliant red flowers on long stalks, is a novelty. Most interesting to us at Cornell are the several species of *Columnnea*. *Columnnea affinis* and *C. sanguinea* are species for the collector only because of their ungainly habit, but such as *C. crassifolia*, the yellow *C. tulae* 'Flava', *C. verecunda*, pink-flowered *C. linearis*, orange *C. hirta*, and others, including some hybrids, are splendid subjects for the small greenhouse.

Outside, some of the rarer hardy European and Asiatic gesneriads may be grown in the northeast and northwest. We have grown *Ramonda Myconii* in the rock garden at Ithaca for years. Others in this category are *Haberlea*, *Conandron*, and the difficult-to-grow *Jankaea*.

Finally, we cultivate a miscellaneous assortment of gesneriads difficult to group horticulturally. The best known is *Aeschynanthus*, a genus of several cultivated species from the wet tropics of Asia. We grow *A. pulcher*, *A. Lobbianus*, and *A. speciosus* among others. The last which we consider tonight is a little plant from the West Indies with firecracker-red flowers. It goes by the name *Gesneria cuneifolia* and from this genus the family takes its name.

I hope that you have enjoyed seeing these relatives of the African violet as much as I have enjoyed working with them. Some of you may want to try them. If you do you will be rewarded by their color. Many of you will be content to continue your specialization in *Saint-paulia*, but as you do you will be aware of their fascinating relatives and perhaps more appreciative of their place in the botanical scheme.

end

CHOICE NEW VARIETIES:

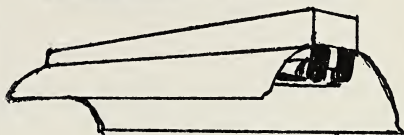
- * Pink and Gold
- * Marshmallow Sundae
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Send 4¢ stamp for list.

ARNDT'S FLORAL GARDEN

Route 2 Box 336 Troutdale, Oregon

The Perfect Lighting for African Violets FLUORESCENT FIXTURES



MODEL FH240 FOR 2 TUBES 40 WATT

(Equal to about 240 W. of regular bulbs)

Size: 48" long, 13" wide

COMPLETE WITH 2 DAYLIGHT BULBS

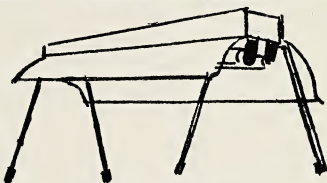
36" rubber cord and pull-switch, Underwriters approved.

\$10.50 Each

For additional growing results -- if so desired -- 2 sockets for 60 W. incandescent bulbs built in.

ADD \$1.50

New TABLE MODEL New



MODEL FU240

Same as Model FH240 (above) with the addition of 2 wrought iron legs, 18" high, with rubber tips, black.

COMPLETE WITH LEGS

\$12.50 Each

FOR 2 TUBES 20 WATT MODEL FH220

(Size: 24" long, 13" wide)

(Equal to about 120 W. of regular bulbs)

36" rubber cord and pull-switch, Underwriters approved.

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Mail check or money order to:

FROSH FLUORESCENT CORP.

MANUFACTURERS

203 BROAD AVENUE

FAIRVIEW, NEW JERSEY

Please send:

- ☐ MODEL FH240 @ \$10.50
- ☐ MODEL FU240 (Table Model) @ \$12.50
- ☐ MODEL FH220 @ \$8.90
- ☐ Build in 2 Sockets for 60 W. Incandescent \$1.50 PER FIXTURE

As advertised, for which I enclose check or money

order for \$_____, plus \$2.20 for packing and postage for each fixture. West of Mississippi, add \$3.35.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

THE ORGANIC WORKSHOP

Marie Dannemiller, Barberton, Ohio

It is too bad that everyone interested in organics could not attend the workshop we had on Friday afternoon at the Rochester Convention. Surely we all learned something, and what a lot of fun we had!

The one thing that was outstanding was the free and easy participation of the people who attended. They were anxious to voice their opinions and experiences and all had something worthwhile to add. An open forum of this type, where people have the opportunity to ask questions and obtain answers or benefit from the experiences of others is valuable to all attending. These workshops could become the hub of future African Violet Conventions, for reports coming in indicate that they fill a long felt need. Attendance at all meetings was very good and we were all surprised at the large number who were interested in coming to our organic workshop. What could possibly be more gratifying than this statement made to those of us on the panel, "To me this organic session is the highlight of the Convention?"

Our moderator, Joe Schulz from Indianapolis, did not give his formula on the panel discussion, but it should certainly be included in this report. It is:

- 1 pint Ruhm's Phosphate Rock
- 1 pint Green Sand Potash
- 1 pint fine charcoal
- 2 pints Fertillife
- 15 pints Millburn Sphagnum moss
- 5 pints sharp sand
- 2 tbsp. Cottonseed meal
- 1 tbsp. Fish meal
- 2 tbsp. Actumus
- 3½ pints Vita Loam

Dampen after mixing, keep stirred up, let cure for at least two weeks. Joe does not sterilize any of the formula, fertilizes with Atlas Fish Emulsion every ten days, uses VC-13 after plants are growing nicely, selenates every six months and sprays with Malathion about once a month.

Edna Bradshaw (Mrs. C. H.), Dublin, Ohio, uses:

- 1 pint Ruhm's Phosphate Rock
- 1 pint Hybrotite Potash Granite Rock
- 1 pint farm manure, dehydrated
- 1 pint charcoal
- 5 pints coarse sand
- 15 pints coarse baled peat
- 2 heaping tbsp. Activo

She bakes the moist peat in the oven two hours at three hundred and fifty degrees, and boils the sand at least half an hour. She ferti-

lizes with Kapco, makes the formula for one gallon, then adds another gallon and a half of water and uses the weak solution once a week. She uses VC-13 only on plants brought in from other sources.

Nelle Frye (Mrs. R. G.), Springfield, Pennsylvania, uses a variation of Mr. Baxter's formula and this is her formula:

- 1 pint Collodial Phosphate
- 1 pint Hybrotite Potash
- 1 pint limestone rock
- 2 quarts dry cow manure
- 1 pint sheep manure
- 1 quart charcoal
- 1½ quarts Sponge-Rok
- 1 pint Electra
- 3 gallons Hyper Humus
- 5 gallons German peat
- 1½ gallons builder's sand
- 2 tbsp. Activo

She does not sterilize anything, feeds with Atlas Fish Emulsion once a month during the winter, not so often in the summer; she uses the Hyper Humus in place of so much sand; and the Electra is sewage sludge, by way of explanation.

Myrtle Green (Mrs. W. B.), Memphis, Tennessee, gives her formula measured with a coffee can:

- 1 coffee can of Ruhm's Phosphate Rock
- 1 coffee can of Potash Rock
- 2 coffee cans of manure
- 1 coffee can of charcoal
- 3 coffee cans of sand
- 10 coffee cans of brown peat moss
- 1 coffee can of steamed bonemeal
- 4 tbsp. Activo
- 1 teacup Chlordane

She does not sterilize, and the Chlordane is used to kill anything that might be harmful in the peat, sand or manure. She uses VC-13 on well established plants every three months, one-half teaspoon to two and one-half gallons of water; and feeds Atlas Fish Emulsion every two weeks, one teaspoon to one gallon of water. She keeps the mixture quite damp for ten days, then dries it out and screens it through one-fourth inch mesh screen. She "brought down the house" when she told us it looks good enough to eat after screening. I believe everyone who heard her will agree that we need more Myrtles in this world.

My formula, as most all of you know, has been added to and subtracted from for various reasons after experimenting with all sorts of organics. Basically it is still much the same, but Mary Suhr agrees with me that one pint of cow manure is not enough and two should be used. Mary took many of the top prizes at the Cincinnati Convention last year, and two pints is what she uses. Here is what I usually go back to and recommend:

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN
AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.**

MYRTLE RADTKE, Treasurer
P. O. Box 1326
Knoxville, Tennessee

Date _____

Please enroll me as a member of African Violet Society of America, Inc. My Dues are enclosed
All Classes of Memberships Are Defined Below.

- | | |
|--------|--|
| SELECT | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership is only \$4.00. |
| AND | <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Membership is \$13.33. |
| CHECK | <input type="checkbox"/> Research Members pay \$20.00. |
| ONE | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Membership is \$10.00. |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership is available for \$66.66. |

Print Name and Address:

Name _____

Street Address _____

City and State _____

Make Checks Payable to African Violet Society of America, Inc.

DETACH ON DOTTED LINE

GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

A year's membership in the African Violet Society of America, Inc. makes a wonderful gift for every occasion — birthdays, anniversaries, Christmas, holidays, or as an appreciation gift for club speakers.

A gift card (you may enclose your own) will be sent to the recipient of your fine gift.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS . . . Individual members pay \$4.00 per year (a year may be any twelve month period).

COMMERCIAL MEMBERS . . . All persons or firms who annually sell one thousand or more African violet plants or leaf cuttings of the same; or who manufacture or sell fertilizer, disease and insect-control materials and equipment, tools, or any other merchandise pertaining to or applicable to growing African violets shall be commercial members. They shall pay \$13.33 per year (a year may be any twelvemonth period). Of each annual dues so paid, all sums in excess of \$4.00 shall be applied to the Research Fund of the Society.

RESEARCH MEMBERS . . . Research members pay at least \$20.00 for each twelvemonth period of membership, and at least 85% of each membership paid shall be applied to the Research Fund of the Society.

SUSTAINING MEMBERS . . . Sustaining members pay at least \$10.00 per year (a year may be any twelvemonth period).

LIFE MEMBERS . . . The payment of \$66.66 or more shall entitle any person to life membership, and life members shall be exempt from any further dues.

MEMBERSHIPS OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

The Society is happy to welcome members from all parts of the world. Application for membership should be sent direct to the Treasurer. Remittance for membership dues, by check, draft or postal money order, should be made payable in United States funds.

- 1 pint Ruhm's Phosphate Rock
- 1 pint Green Sand
- 2 pints dehydrated manure or Fertilife
- 1 pint charcoal
- ½ pint ground Dolomite Limestone Rock
- 5 pints coarse sand
- 15 pints peat moss
(now using Millburn Sphagnum)
- 2 tbsp. Activo

I do use both Elk Organic, six pints, and three pints of Vitaloam, and many times use both the cottonseed meal and fish meal as well (December 1956 magazine page 56), and Actumus in place of Activo as given in Joe's formula. I scald the sand with boiling water and do the same when I use baled peat, let the mixture work for at least two weeks before using, and when I fertilize, which is seldom, I use Atlas Fish Emulsion. My last Nature's Way article explains why I am using limestone again.

Good luck and good growing to you all. Better start saving to go to Detroit next year, we have so much fun! Good joke — I held three winning tickets for door prizes at Rochester and got a big bottle of chemical fertilizer each time; when Myrtle's number came up it was a large bag of manure, and she came by train, so her loss was another person's gain. I left my bottles in Pennsylvania and New York.

P.S. For those wanting to know where organic materials can be purchased, see Fred Veith's advertisement in the magazine. end

CONVENTION WINNERS —

Ready for fall shipping:

TORCHY — Brilliant red-pink, very dark foliage.

HER GRACE — Large double pink blooms held high above beautiful girl foliage.

GREAT DAY — Glowing rose-pink double, lovely plain foliage.

VIV — Vivid red-pink, dark plain foliage.

KATHY — Pretty medium blue double, with white edge.

MELO — Large full double pink, quilted foliage.

Send stamp for complete fall lists ready now, rooted cuttings and plants. (Please specify wholesale or retail list)

RICHTER'S GREENHOUSES

607 Hoffman Street Hammond, Indiana

EVILS OF OVERWATERING

Bunnie McGraw, Downers Grove, Illinois

The idea that, "too much of a good thing is no good" should be in the minds of all Saintpaulia growers, for our plants respond well to discretion but cannot live in well meant, but misdirected, treatment. Overwatering is quickly apparent and the sad results are almost as quickly observed. The soil has become waterlogged and the roots deprived of the oxygen which is normally around them in the light porous soil. This condition also encourages diseases, such as root rot and crown rot, which thrive in waterlogged soil.

Giving the plant more water than the soil around it can absorb is so obvious that we wonder why Saintpaulia lovers should lose plants in this manner. Perhaps they have become accustomed to giving the plants a certain amount during the winter and expect them to use up as much water in the summer when the humidity is much higher.

Top watering is to be recommended whenever practical because then it is possible to watch the soil take up the water and stop just short of giving it too much. However, when watering from the saucer is best, then the water that is left in the saucer after a short time should be poured out. The length of time will depend on the size of the plant and pot as well as the variety of Saintpaulia, for some varieties require more water than others.

If plant food is applied in the water, it is more than ever important that care be taken that the plant is given only what it can handle promptly.

Plants need not be watered every day, but they should be inspected every day and the dry earth moistened. It is so much better to give them little drinks often than to drown them out in one big application. end

H U R R Y

You may still obtain small plants of our Convention releases — each one a prize winner. See our June ad on page 66.

Cold weather is coming — no orders accepted after October 10.

Phone 390

NAOMI'S AFRICAN VIOLETS

141 Holley St.

Brockport, New York

Mrs. Layson left, presents Honorary Life Membership Certificate to Mrs. Wangberg at Friday evening meeting.



REPORT OF AWARDS COMMITTEE

Mrs. Z. C. Layson, Chairman, Maysville, Kentucky

HONORARY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATES WERE AWARDED TO:

Daisy Jones, Memphis, Tennessee, for a five year tally of top winning African violet varieties exhibited in Affiliated Chapter Shows and for other meritorious services.

Catherine B. Shepherd, Arlington, Virginia, for outstanding service in furnishing ideas and procuring stories for the African Violet Magazine.

Paul J. Arnold, Binghamton, N. Y., for furnishing pictures and valuable information to the Society.

Neva Anderson, Webster Groves, Missouri, for outstanding service and devotion to the work of the Metropolitan St. Louis Council of African Violet Clubs and the National Society.

Barbara Rodgers, Scarboro, Ontario, Canada, for furnishing a fine set of slides to the Library of the Society and active interest in African Violet Shows.

Anne Tinari, Bethayres, Pennsylvania, for meritorious service to the Society since its organization.

Dr. Harold E. Moore, Jr., Ithaca, N. Y., for services to the Society with valuable information and stories.

Helena Pearl Thomas, Walnut Creek, California, for unselfish promotion of the African violet on the West Coast.

Ruth Schmittell, Akron, Ohio, for service on the National Pin Committee.

THE BRONZE MEDAL CERTIFICATE TO:

M. Eugene Sundt, Albuquerque, New Mexico, for his authoritative scientific story, "Let There Be Light" with illustrating charts and references published in the African Violet Magazine.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE TO:

Maxine Wangberg, Harlowton, Montana, with her boundless energy has in numerous ways advanced the Society and its objectives. She has completed ten years of service as Club Editor of the African Violet Magazine, an assignment that required thousands of words of copy and countless letters. Also edited the Show News and Views feature until 1956. Was Recording Secretary 1949-50. She, at present, is serving as Affiliated Chapter Chairman, a difficult and important phase of the Society's activities.

FLOWER GROWER MAGAZINE SILVER PLATE AWARD TO:

Edith Flory, Geneseo, N. Y., in recognition of fine leadership in organizational work in the state of New York, for growing and showing lovely plants, and for her devotion to introducing African violets to hospitalized patients in Veterans Hospital of Batavia, N. Y. She is a camera fan and possesses a fine library of slides of show scenes and show plants. Mrs. Flory organized Livingston County African Violet Society, served as president of Rochester African Violet Society and played a part in laying plans for the New York State African Violet Society and served as president. As a life member of the National



Mrs. Montague Free left, presenting the Silver Cup to Mrs. Edward Casey.

Society her interest and influence has spread in many directions.

SPECIAL AWARDS, AMATEUR DIVISION, CONVENTION SHOW:

Alma Wright Award \$25, specimen New Alma Wright to Mrs. Edward Casey, Rochester, New York.

Behnke Nurseries Award \$50 on their introductions. No entries qualified.

Davidson County African Violet Societies, Nashville, Tennessee. Best specimen pink \$25 to Mrs. Robert Tuggey, East Bloomfield, N. Y., var. Vallinpink.

Madison Garden Award \$50. \$25 on best Mona Lisa to Mrs. Robert Casey, Rochester, N. Y., \$25 on best Pink Chiffon. None qualified.

Popular Gardening Magazine Sweepstakes Award. Sterling Silver Bowl to Mrs. Edward Casey, Rochester, New York.

Research Committee Cross Hybrid Award, \$25. No entries.

Rose Acre Nurseries Award \$50 on Arrangements. \$25 Best entry in unusual container. \$25 First to Mrs. John Pope, Acton, Indiana. \$15 Second to Mrs. Elmer Ace, Honeoye, N. Y. \$10 Third to Mrs. Chris. Griswald, Lockport, N. Y.

Select Violet House, Mary Meeds, \$25. \$15 Best specimen So Sweet to Mrs. E. Loudon, Painesville, Ohio. \$10 Second best specimen, None qualified.

Smith Potting Soil Co. Award \$25. Most outstanding seedling or mutation to Mrs. Robert Lanigan, Rochester, N. Y. Name not released.

Stim-U-Plant Laboratories Plaque and \$50 to best named variety in the specimen classes to Mrs. Edward Casey, Rochester, N. Y., var. White Pride Supreme. \$25 best dark blue or purple to Mrs. T. C. Fritz, Kingsport, Tennessee, var. Valor.



Mrs. Hugh Eyerdom, Granger Gardens winner of Commercial Silver Cup.

\$25 on best red violet to Mrs. G. Chaisson, Rochester, N. Y., var. Caravan Masquerade. \$25 on best white to Mrs. E. Loudon, Painesville, Ohio, var. Innocence.

Tinari Greenhouses Award 21-cup Violetree on list of their introductions to Mrs. N. A. Volke, Rochester, N. Y.

Tay-Bow African Violets \$50. \$25 Best Bud's Kimberly to Mrs. Edward Casey, Rochester, N. Y. \$25 Best Bud's Pink Valentine. None qualified.

Tube Craft Floral Cart Award to Mrs. Edward Casey, Rochester, New York.

Tonkadale Greenhouses \$50 Cash Surprise Award. \$25 to oldest woman member of Society at banquet to Gertrude Randall, Watertown, New York. \$25 to oldest man member of Society at banquet to Montague Free, Hyde Park, N. Y.

Violet Treasure House \$25 to winner of most blues on T-V Series of varieties. None qualified.

Year Book Awards by the Society's Library. \$5 to Best Year Book won by Canton African Violet Society, Canton, Ohio. \$3 second best to Dayton African Violet Society, Dayton, Ohio. \$2 third best to Suburban Saintpaulia Society, Arlington Heights, Illinois.

National Gold and Purple Ribbons. None Awarded.

Society Silver Cup to the best specimen of show to Mrs. Edward Casey, Rochester, N. Y. var. White Pride Supreme.

Society's Award of Merit Rosette to second best specimen in show to Mrs. Robert Tuggey, East Bloomfield, N. Y. var. Vallinpink.

Society's Honorable Mention Rosette for third best specimen to Mrs. E. Loudon, Painesville, Ohio. var. Innocence.

Society's Commercial Silver Cup to best exhibit in Commercial Division to Granger Gardens, Grace Eyerdom, Medina, Ohio. end

THE BUYER'S GUIDE

Quixie Nichols, Madison, Tennessee

We appreciate your staying for our part of the program as I am certain some of you wanted to be on your way home.

May I now introduce the members of the committee: Mrs. John T. Buckner of Missouri; Mrs. Charles E. Stoehr of Indiana; and Mrs. David E. Cabbage of Pennsylvania. Mrs. William Rodda of Indiana could not be with us. At this time I want to thank the members of the committee for their co-operation during the past year.

I would also like to thank the commercial growers for their co-operation and for bringing their plants to the Convention. Without their exhibitions the Convention would lack a great deal that is useful and beautiful.

We appreciate the votes on the Choice Twenty-five varieties of violets, and urge you to send them in again before the next Convention to Mrs. John T. Buckner, 206 North Lake Street, Pleasant Hill, Missouri. It would help her if each club member would turn in her choice, and if the club secretary would then compile a list of the chosen one hundred. This list is made up at the Convention each year and is published in the June Magazine as the Best 100.

We are constantly trying to find new varieties and report our findings to you. If you know of any variety in your locality that you think is rare and different, please let us know. If there is any information that we might give you, or if you have any suggestion that might help us to be of greater service to you, or if you wish to ask questions during the program, please feel free to speak.

Since you have expressed a desire for my soil formula, I will give it to you at this time, broken down into smaller quantities. Be sure that the rooted log or sawdust, manure, leaf mold and straw are well rotted. They can be sterilized either before or after mixing. I use a twenty-one quart pressure cooker with fifteen pounds pressure for one hour. These are the ingredients and I have good results with my soil.

8 Qts. Rotted log or sawdust.

6 Qts. Manure, horse preferred, if not then I use Commercial Sheep Manure.

6 Qts. Leaf Mold, Oak preferred.

2 Qts. Fibrous Peat Moss.

4 Qts. Peat Humus or ground Peat.

4 Qts. Vitaloam, or any amount you prefer, since it will not burn.

4 Qts. Rotted straw, if available. I do not always have this.

3 Qts. Sponge-Rok or Agritex, the coarse grade.

4" Pot of Ruhm's Phosphate.

4" Pot of Green Sand.

After sterilizing the log, manure, leaf mold and straw, mix well, then mix two parts of the above with one part Black Magic African Violet Soil. I let this stand a few days, stirring daily and dampening it slightly, before using it. I believe you can use plastic pots.

If you are getting good results with your present method, do not change. When trying a new mixture it is always best to try it with a few plants until you are sure that it is right.

I use Wonder Garden Spray, manufactured by the Re-Mark Chemical Company, Miami, Florida. I do not use sodium selenate as it is a poison. Wonder Garden Spray will kill insects but not injure the plants unless you get too close to the blossoms. If plants are badly infested, all nearby plants should be sprayed.

We wish to thank the commercial growers and hybridizers for all the new varieties sent to us. We hope that they will continue to work with us in trying to eliminate duplicate names and varieties. We realize their difficulty as they are so widely scattered over the country. Another thing we urge the hybridizers to do is to be sure that their variety is really different before naming it and placing it on the market. Numerous varieties have been placed on the market which should have been used for further hybridizing to improve the bloom, foliage and luxuriance. Let us all be more careful about this. Let us make our slogan, "Not more varieties, but better varieties that are really different and outstanding."

I would like to ask the commercial growers to notify me about any variety they wish tested, to send me a blooming plant, and I will order for the rest of the committee. The sooner we get new varieties, the sooner the committee will be able to place them on the Buyer's Guide List. Mr. Lyon sent his new varieties to the committee last summer, so their names could be published in this year's list. These plants were sent with the understanding that they were not to be used for propagation or leaves sold until his plants were released. The committee members, upon receiving the plants for testing, are to repot them in the same kind of soil, to take a leaf from each plant and put it down in case the plant is lost, also to see how the plant will propagate.

Again I say thanks to the growers for their kindness and helpfulness.

I have some slides of various varieties that we have been testing. Mr. Nichols has made others for us. He will show these and I will tell something about them, after — each member of the committee has reported her findings.

SARA CUBBAGE, GLENSHAW, PENNS.

Serving as secretary of the Buyer's Guide during the past year has been most interesting. Your many letters expressing interest in this section of the magazine have been very encouraging.

To care for and grow the plants as they arrive has indeed been a pleasure. I have a separate table on which these plants are placed on arrival. This table is three feet wide and about six feet long. The plants are set on white porcelain trays. They are all dipped in a solution of Optox, one teaspoon to one and one-half quarts of water. The small plants are then placed under fluorescent lights at a distance of four to six inches. They remain in the soil in which they arrive until they are established, then they are planted in an organic mix.

These plants are always given the best care; they are fed and ventilation is provided as I feel it is needed. Watering is done with rain water, but if I do not have rain water I draw the hot water the evening before watering and let it stand over night. This gives the chlorine an opportunity to evaporate.

May I take this opportunity to thank each of you who sent in lists of your Choice Twenty-Five plants, to contribute to the Best 100 in the June issue of the magazine.

**MRS. JOHN T. BUCKNER
PLEASANT HILL, MISSOURI**

There is not much I can tell you about African violets that you do not already know, I am sure; but perhaps you might like to know how I treat the plants which are sent to me to test for the Buyer's Guide.

They are unpacked as soon as possible after arrival, placed in a northeast corner window and watered. There they are left for a week or two until they have recovered from the shock of shipping. Then they are repotted and fed. They remain in this window, which is in a room away from other violets, for at least three months. When I feel certain that these new plants are disease free, they are placed in trays of marble chips under the lights in my violet room in the

basement. They grow very rapidly in these trays, and remain there until the blooms sometimes nearly touch the lights.

When the plants are repotted, a leaf is taken from each to start others; but I always try to see how well I can grow the original plant. A number of plants which I took home from the Convention last year were very beautiful show plants in time for the Kansas City show on February 23rd of this year.

I have enjoyed my work during the past year on the Buyer's Guide Committee and it has been a pleasure to serve you.

BETTY STOEHR, GREENWOOD, INDIANA

I was very proud to be asked to serve on the Buyer's Guide Committee, since this work is only the continuation of what I have been doing for my own pleasure for almost ten years. For two years my interest in violets was forced to play second fiddle, or I might even say fourth fiddle, to three boys in high school.

Among some rather ordinary looking plants I acquired was one that I think must have been Neptune. This plant gave me my early education in shape and form. It grew so perfectly symmetrical and bloomed so constantly that every other plant was judged against it. I guess I am a perfectionist, but I expect a great deal of a plant. If I am to enjoy having it around, it must grow in a symmetrical manner, have a good color foliage as well as bloom, and it must be in bloom most of the time. A plant that only wants to bloom each spring gets very little attention at my house, although some of them are so beautiful that it is hard to discard them.

As my collection grew beyond the confines of my few windows, I started putting lights in



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POKON DUTCH PLANTFOOD
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It's Pokon that makes the plants in Holland famous. Pokon balanced diet for plants in a special Dutch composition. Highly concentrated - 100% soluble, so no risk of burning.

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If not available in your favourite store, please write to: J. Spoutz, African Violet Greenhouses, 34365 Moravian Drive, Fraser (Mich.) Davis Violet House, 2113 South Ave, Middleton (Wisc.) G. J. Zwiep, 4106 Goebel Ave. Palo Alto. (Calif.)
If distributors like to join us, please contact Pokon-Naarden-Holland

the basement and most of my plants are grown there. I travel with a tray of vermiculite in the car, along with the Magazine and Handbook, and meet so many nice people and get so many new plants. Each plant that comes to live with me is immediately repotted in my own soil. With all due respect to the grower, I seem to get so much better results in this way, which only indicates that I have achieved some sort of balance. My soil tests 7.2, which is, of course, slightly alkaline. I report frequently instead of feeding. My lights consist of two forty-watt warm white tubes, fifteen inches above the table, burned fourteen hours per day.

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Window grown Leaves only mailed
Send 5¢ for descriptive price list and leaflet on violet
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Fresh Cut Leaves From

Lutie Dunlap

5007 Chestnut Avenue

Kansas City 30, Missouri

PURPLE HONEY — Huge deep purple double with heavy fringed chartreuse edge, very dark glossy wavy foliage, truly a honey from Mrs. Vallin.

FRILLED RASPBERRY — Very frilled deep raspberry pink double, plain bright green wavy foliage, another striking Vallin creation.

WHITE BOKAY — Frilled fully double pure white like miniature roses, medium green slightly quilted somewhat wavy foliage, excellent bloomer.

FRINGED NOSEGAY, POTPOURRI, VIV, TORCHY, REED'S STARS, CARNATIONS, CASCADES, Hundreds of others.

Fall List by Request

Lutie Dunlap

Bill Smithson

My little black book lists all the plants that I have obtained since 1951, and in glancing through it I notice that many of the first ones are still so very good. Emperor Wilhelm, of course, Pink Cheer, Sir Lancelot, Innocence, Ruffled Queen, Purple Prince and many others. The hybridizers are really making things more interesting every day with the unbelievable colors, shapes and variations. But, I do not have the time to start on all the new varieties — it would take hours.

Then followed the showing of a number of color slides of interesting and worthwhile African violets the Buyer's Guide Committee had been testing and evaluating during the past year.

—Editor

CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

Year ended December 31, 1957

February 5, 1958

Board of Directors

African Violet Society of America, Inc.

Atlanta, Georgia

We have examined the statement of cash receipts and disbursements of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., for the year ended December 31, 1957. In connection therewith, the records of cash transactions for the year were examined by comparing the totals of cash receipts recorded in the general cash book with deposits shown by monthly bank statements and by inspection of paid checks, available invoices, and other data on file in support of recorded disbursements.

Cash on deposit at December 31, 1957, in the amount of \$29,023.78, was reconciled with the amount reported to us by The Central Trust Company, Cincinnati, Ohio. We made no examination of a cash fund, in the amount of \$200.00, in the custody of Mrs. Robert Wright, Editor of the African Violet Magazine.

ERNST & ERNST

Certified Public Accountants

RECEIPTS

Membership dues	\$43,588.17
Advertising	9,133.12
Research — Boyce M. Edens	1,394.61
Convention income — net	1,107.23
Cancellation of old outstanding checks	601.50
Sales of back issues	596.26
Registration fees for new varieties	521.00
Interest on savings certificates	300.00
Judging school	89.00
Library	74.27
Sales of binders	32.50

TOTAL RECEIPTS \$57,437.66

DISBURSEMENTS

Magazine and Member's Handbook	\$32,260.90
Services and payroll taxes	9,785.72
Postage	1,935.21
Supplies	1,661.91
Traveling expenses	1,258.89
Office — rent, light, heat, etc.	713.63
Long distance telephone	474.18
Library	414.08
Equipment	406.27
Attorney fees	226.02
Buyer's Guide	201.13
Auditing and tax services	200.00
Advertising	92.40
Surety bond	80.19
Judging school	28.41
Insurance	27.00
Dues and subscriptions	26.00
Miscellaneous	9.50

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS \$49,801.44

EXCESS OF

RECEIPTS OVER DISBURSEMENTS \$ 7,636.22

REGISTRATION REPORT ...

Constance Hansen, Box 302, Lafayette, California

PLANT AND REGISTRANT

The following registrations for registration have been received during the period from May 1, 1958, to June 6, 1958:

PART I

PINK MAYFLOWER (1037) P4dS, **PINK MAYFLOWER SUPREME** (1038) P46dS, 6/2/58, Priscilla Alden Hutchens, 105 Gregory Hill Rd., Rochester 20, New York.
MISS WISCONSIN (1039) LB2dS, **WISCONSIN FLEECY CLOUD** (1040) LB2dS, **BLUE BUBBLES** (1041) MB2dS, 6/6/58, Mrs. O. F. Isenberg, 433-3rd St., Baraboo, Wisconsin.
VELVA (1042) MB45sM, 7/18/58, Mrs. Violet C. Stitley, 611 Pennsylvania Ave., Irwin, Pa.
SETAUKET BELLE (1043) O95dfS, 7/13/58, Mrs. Culver Davis, East Setauket, L. I., N. Y.
MADISON GARDENS BLUE GODDESS (1044) B86sS, **DAGMAR** (1045) WC86sS, **DOUBLE MOON MAID** (1046) WC86dS, **MADISON GARDENS INDIAN PRINCESS** (1047) OX86sfS, **MADISON GARDENS LITTLE BOY BLUE** (1048) B86sfS, **LOVE SONG** (1049) P26dS, **OKLAHOMA** (1050) LB4dM, **MADISON GARDENS PINK DAWN** (1051) P8dS, **RENAISSANCE** (1052) BC86dS, **SKY BLUE PRINCESS** (1053) B4dM, **SLEEPING BEAUTY** (1054) OC26dS, **SPARKLING GOLD** (1055) RC26sS, **STAR DUST** (1056) O58sfS, **STATUETTE** (1057) DB26sS, **YELLOW FRINGE** (1058) PC56sfS, 7/20/58, Madison Gardens, Madison, Ohio.

PART II

The following name reservations have been received from May 1, 1958, to August 1, 1958.

Pink Shadows — Bacchante

Always the BEST of the NEWEST Including
OUR OWN 1958 RELEASES

Veri-Gae, Magic Sails, Neina, Camerette, Miss Ellen,
No Siesta, Velvet Dusk, Early Dawn

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Small plants ready to bloom each 50¢.

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Root 8 to 16 African Violet leaves at one time in each pair! Dainty clear plastic cylinders, 2 1/4" diameter, have "Arrange-O-Disc" tops with 8 oblong holes to hold stems, for rooting violet leaves in water, or for flower arrangement at base of candle! Holes are shaped to hold leaves apart and to keep them dry. Holds 1 1/2" water. Doughnut center slides over candle, if desired. Only \$1.00 per pair, postpaid.

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Variety, Grocery, Seed or Hardware Store. If not available

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4 quarts \$1.00

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ATTENTION: Club Presidents
Write for FREE samples for door prizes

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Tulsa, Okla.

SHOW News and Views

Deadline dates: For December issue September 1st; For March issue December 1st; For June issue March 1st; for September issue June 1st.

A few items you should know: No photos can be returned. Please do NOT SEND ME NEGATIVES. Please send no newspaper clippings. Show News must be confined to 200 words or less.

Eunice Fisher, Show Editor, Route 3, Box 284, Oshkosh, Wisconsin

● **THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF BEAUMONT, TEXAS**, held its fifth African violet show on April 19 and 20, 1958. The theme of the show was "Violets by the Sea," carried out beautifully with marine decorations by Mrs. C. C. Helmke, staging chairman. Mrs. X. R. Randall was show chairman.

Mrs. S. D. Smith of Orange, Texas, was sweepstakes winner; Mrs. Mike Peveto was tricolor winner in horticulture; Mrs. R. L. Stuart was tricolor winner in composition; and Mrs. X. R. Randall for seedlings. Special awards were given Mrs. George Vallin and Mrs. C. O. Barbay for their beautiful displays.

● **THE MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA, VIOLETEERS** held their fourth annual spring show with a theme of "Violets in Fairyland." There were 495 plants on display and at least 500 people came to see the show.

● **THE SHERIDAN AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB** of Sheridan, Wyoming, held its fourth annual violet show April 26th, 1958, with the theme "Violets in Fairyland." It was carried out with displays of Cinderella, Old Woman in the Shoe, Little Seas Maid, Fairy Workshop, Mirror, Mirror on the Wall, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, Little Red Riding Hood, and The Three Bears. Five little girls dressed as fairies were present to help carry out the theme of the show.

There was a special table of double blues, a table of double pinks and one of reds. Also a table of new varieties, one for nonmembers, and a table with novelty containers.

● **THE MILWAUKEE COUNTY AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** had as its theme "Violet Fantasy" for its seventh annual spring show held May 17-18, 1958. The fantasy theme was well carried out in table arrangements which depicted many tales of the land of make-believe. Mrs. William Krogman received an award for best arrangement illustrating the theme. Mrs. Ted Tate won the sweepstakes award for the most blue ribbons. She also won the National Gold Ribbon Award for three plants. Gem of the show went to Mrs. Zachary Thorne. Mrs. John Thiele had best screen; Mrs. Edward Bartlog had best table and best arrangement; Mrs. George Sanford had best container; Mrs. Henry Petrusek had blue ribbon for first time exhibitor; Mrs. Arthur Niblo sold the most tickets. The Country Side African Violet Club of Madison, Wisconsin, participated in the show. Mrs. Edwin Foster was chairman, Mrs. Walter Rittel, club president.

● **THE FIRST HALIFAX AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY**, Halifax, Nova Scotia, held its annual show April 26, 1958. A plant of White Puff entered by Mrs. C. R. K. Allen won best in the show. Mrs. Allen also won best double with her Student Prince. Mrs. W. Purdy won best single violet with her Fairy Tales. Mrs. E. J. Vickery, president of the club, won the most points. Mrs. J. C. Bell won best artistic arrangement and had the best collection.

● **THE DIXIE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY'S** convention and fall show will be held October 11 and 12, 1958, at the Architects and Engineers Institute Building, Atlanta, Georgia.

Entries for the show may be made from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. October 10th, and from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. October 11th. A dinner meeting will be held at the Institute Building at 6:30 p.m. October 10th. The show will be open to the public, and the final session will be from 2 to 6 p.m. Sunday October 12th.

The theme of the show is "Violet Gems with a Southern Accent."

● **THE INGLEWOOD AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** of California, held its show April 18-19, 1958, with the theme of "April Jewels." On the stage was a garden scene with a glistening peacock perched on a tall column, set off by a white arched fence and a wrought iron bench, all banked with violets.

Mrs. Elsie Staff won the sweepstakes for most blue ribbons. Mrs. Ruth Swenson won the California council award. Mrs. Dorothy Knirck won queen of the show cup. Mrs. Maude Gosman won the theme trophy and Mrs. Gladys West the Novice award.

● **THE UNION COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY**, held its fifth annual show on April 18-19, 1958, at the Masonic Temple in Westfield, New Jersey. "Command Performance" was chosen for the show theme, and was carried out with artistic arrangements such as "Crown Jewels," "Little Princess," "Court Jester," and "Royal Tea Time."

A silver dish was awarded to Mrs. G. B. Hudson for winning sweepstakes and to Mrs. H. K. Dunn for queen of the show. The National Gold Ribbon Award went to Mrs. C. B. Ward, the New Jersey state award to Mrs. G. B. Hudson, for arrangements, the tricolor award went to Miss Barbara Lawrence, and the award of distinction to Mrs. A. B. Lawrence. Mrs. H. K. Dunn was show chairman.

● **THE HARMONY AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** of Boise, Idaho, held its third annual show and plant sale April 20, 1958, at the American Legion Hall. Several hundred plants were exhibited in the show through mass display and artistic arrangements. Mrs. W. T. Kirtley of Star, Idaho, was general chairman of the show.

● **THE FIRST AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** of Dallas, held its fourth annual show at Lambert's Landscaping Company on March 1-2, 1958. The theme of the show was "African Violet Fairyland."

The National Gold Award went to Mrs. R. B. Watson, while the Purple Award went to Mrs. Edward Bone. Runner-up in sweepstakes went to Mrs. L. Clyde Williams who also received the Lambert trophy. Mrs. Williams also won the award of merit for the most horticulturally conditioned plant, a White Pride. The award of distinction for the best illustration of the theme of the show, went to Mrs. F. B. Davis. The tricolor award for the most artistic arrangement with White Madonna, went to Mrs. J. W. Hofmann.

Mrs. Edward Bone had the best single, a plant of Dixie Moonbeam. Best double, White Pride, was exhibited by Mrs. L. Clyde Williams. Mrs. Williams also had the best collection of three plants. Mrs. Edward Bone had best collection of five plants. Best double in a collection, Double Garnet Select, was shown by Mrs. H. F. Herring, Garland, Texas, and best collection of miniatures, by Mrs. J. B. Willis, Irving, Texas. Mrs. John B. Bubak showed the best collection of semiminiatures.

● **THE PIONEER AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** of Norfolk, Virginia, held its fifth annual African violet show March 29-30, 1958. Mrs. C. W. Diggs won the National First Award with Mrs. C. M. Ward getting second. Queen of the show was Holly Supreme, entered by Mrs. Diggs. Mrs. John T. Olah entered an outstanding arrangement, "Easter Morn" using a Madonna with violets, and won a gold ribbon with her entry.

● **THE HAPPY 'OURS AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB** held its second annual violet show and plant sale at Hawthorne, New Jersey, on March 22, 1958. The theme of the show was "A Spring Shower of Violets" and over two hundred entries were exhibited.

Queen of the show was awarded to Mrs. Harry Loughlin for her plant of Laura.

ENHANCE THE BEAUTY OF YOUR AFRICAN VIOLETS IN THIS NEW KELVIE TABLE TOP STAND



Space Saving — Decorative — Adjustable
Unique table top stand shows 7 plants to their best advantage. Several arrangements are possible because each pot holding arm is adjustable vertically or horizontally. Quickly assembled with seven (4") plastic pots, (choice of red, green, yellow or bronze); seven pot holder arms, 12" diameter satin black base, and 18" center arm holder.

Price Complete . . . \$6.95 each. (Plants not included)

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● **THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF UTAH**, held its spring show at Salt Lake City, Utah, April 5-6, 1958. An Easter theme was carried out. Mrs. Seymour Gray received the gold cup for grand sweepstakes. Queen of the show gold cup went to Mrs. Marvin Strong. The Gold Ribbon Award of the National Society went to Mrs. Arthur Lutz for three prize winning plants. Blue ribbons in the horticultural section went to Mrs. Hoyt Conger, Mrs. Gray, Mrs. Strong, Mrs. Lutz, Mrs. Alma J. Gunn, Mrs. Robert Paul and Mrs. J. Stevens.

Sweepstakes in the arrangement section was awarded to Mrs. John H. Jones. Blue Ribbons went to Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Clay Robinson, Mrs. Harold Rushton. Judges serving were Mrs. Philip O. Boyer, Mrs. Irene Dunlap, Mrs. Lowell Taylor, Mrs. V. R. Hutchens and Mrs. Ralph Carlston.

● **THE BOOT HILL SAINTPAULIA CLUB** of Dodge City, Kansas, held an African violet exhibit and tea April 26, 1958, in the Parish House of the St. Cornelius Episcopal Church. The theme of the exhibit was "Violets on Parade", carried out by violets in novel ceramic containers to represent a parade.

Mrs. Cecil Denning, Mrs. Sid Freeland and Mrs. W. Z. Hamilton served as hostesses. The tea table was decorated with a May Pole surrounded by dancing girls and violets.

● **THE METROPOLITAN ST. LOUIS COUNCIL OF AFRICAN VIOLET CLUBS** held its sixth annual show March 22-23, 1958, at the Floral Display House, Missouri Botanical Gardens, St. Louis, Missouri. The theme of the show was "Violet Rainbow", and was well carried out. A blue background was used covered with angel hair to simulate clouds, African violets swirling across in various colors to form a rainbow effect, and at the end of the rainbow a large plant in a gold container representing the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.

Mrs. Fred Tretter won sweepstakes with eighteen blue ribbons. Mrs. S. E. Shantz won the tricolor award for the best plant in the show, and won the National Gold Ribbon on her three registered plants, Double Pink Cheer, T. V. Swirling Petticoats, and Double Neptune. Mrs. T. M. Farris won the tricolor award for most artistic arrangement in the show. Special gold awards were given in sixteen classes for the best plant in its class.

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PLANTS AT HOUSE 35¢ UP
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THE NEWEST AND OLDER VARIETIES

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Freshly cut leaves

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Copies of "Installation of Officers for African Violet Societies." Suggestions, form and types of installations. Fifty-cents copy.

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BRINGS MORE BEAUTY & BLOOMS
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Perfectly balanced for correctly feeding African Violets and other house plants. Simply dissolve in water and apply to root system of plants as directed. It quickly feeds every part of the plant without danger of overstimulating. Commercial growers find it produces bigger, more vigorous plants, with more and larger blooms. Seedlings and cuttings rooted in sand or propagating media kept moist with HYPONeX solution grow quicker, stronger. Root shock is reduced when transplanting.



1 lb. pkg. makes 100 gals... Postpaid \$1.00
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THEONeX AFRICAN VIOLET BOOK

A new book by Esther C. Grayson fully illustrated from photographs by F. F. Rockwell gives a complete guide on the growing and culture of African Violets. It is also a reference book for listings of new varieties as to color, style of flower and names. Covers subject of propagation from cuttings and seeds as well as divisions.

AFRICAN VIOLET BOOK . . Postpaid \$1
Commercial Growers and Dealers are invited to write for price list and information on all products in the "ONeX" line.

HYDROPONIC CHEMICAL COMPANY, Inc.
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Award plants and National Award plants and sweepstakes ribbon were displayed on a half circle table draped in purple velvet. A total of 296 plants was entered in the show.

● **THE AFRICAN VIOLET CLUBS OF THE TWIN CITIES** and vicinity held their meeting on March 18th at Donaldson's Department Store in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Donaldson's presented awards to the following clubs: Gold cup for best table of violets went to the Cinderella Club of Minneapolis. Purple rosette to the Falcon Heights Hi-Loa Club of St. Paul. Gold cup for best table arrangement went to the Falcon Heights Hi-Loa Club, St. Paul. Purple rosette went to the Dorette Club, St. Paul.

● **THE JAMESTOWN AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB** held its fifth annual show March 29-30, 1958, in the Mongolian Room of the Hotel Jamestown, Jamestown, New York. "Violets for Friendship and Remembrance" was chosen for the theme of the show. Mrs. George O. Hall and Mrs. Vernon Burmeister were cochairmen.

Mrs. Sigurd Flyger's plant, Pink Caress, was chosen queen of the show. Runner-up to the queen was Purple Frivolette, entered by Mrs. Lavern Clawson. Mrs. Arthur A. Agnew won sweepstakes with Mrs. Sigurd Flyger as runner-up. Mrs. Sigurd Flyger won first of the National Awards, Mrs. L. G. Love won second. Mrs. Arthur A. Agnew, first, and Mrs. Sigurd Flyger, second, captured the New York state society awards.

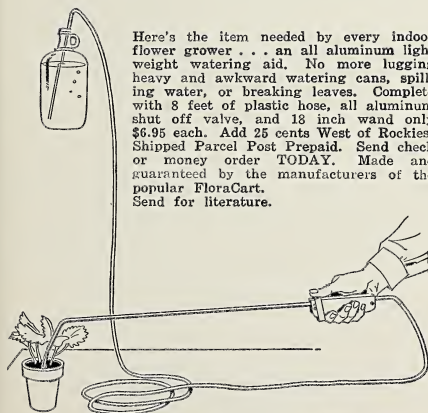
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Rienhardt, Syracuse, New York, and Mrs. Byrdena Woodley, Gowanda, New York, were the violet judges. Mrs. William H. Rhubottom, Jr., Greenhurst, N. Y., and Mrs. Lee Hilton of Sinclairville, New York, judged the decorative arrangements. There were four hundred twenty-two entries in the show, consisting of three hundred eighty-one plants and forty-one decorative arrangements.

● **THE BALTIMORE AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB** held its annual show March 28-29 at the East-point Shopping Center with the theme of "Violet Madness." Members wore home-decorated hats, using violets for decoration. After the hats were judged, they were used as part of the stage decoration.

Queen of the show was a plant of White Popcorn grown by Mrs. Edna Marx and it won the Governor T. R. McKeldin silver trophy. Sweepstakes went to Mrs. Betty Deckelman, and Mrs. Tillie Leimbach's garden arrangement won for her the Mayor Thom, D'Alesandro trophy.

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Make money — Clubs, Individuals.

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ST. PAUL 5, MINN. ST. PAUL 5, MINN.

● At the International Flower Show, sponsored by the Horticultural Society of New York, **THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF GREATER NEW YORK** sponsored a display and information booth designed to further the interest in the Saintpaulia.

Choosing the theme "The World Is Your Garden," a large map of Africa made entirely of blooming violet plants was featured. This most outstanding display received a first place and a cash award for its effectiveness and originality. Mr. Paul R. Younger, Mrs. Robert E. Nagle and Mrs. Gertrude Ferris served as attendants at the information booth.

● The ninth annual show of the **LITTLE ROCK AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** was held March 27, 1958, in the Highland Park Social Room, Little Rock, Arkansas. The theme of the show "Westward Ho!" was emphasized with a large display of blooming African violets in front of a real wagon wheel, the spokes being filled in with the colors of the spectrum.

Mrs. Zelma Pierce was sweepstakes winner. The best plant in the show was a Sea Sprite grown by Mrs. Mixon. The largest plant was a seedling grown by Mrs. H. C. Thompson. Mrs. W. H. Mixon won the National Gold Award and Mrs. Herbert Hill won the National Purple Award of the African Violet Society of America. Two unusual exhibitors were eleven year old Miss Barbara Burton who grows African violets as her Girl Scout project, and Mrs. I. M. Routh, the sightless honorary life member of the local society.

● The tenth anniversary violet exhibit of the **SPRINGFIELD VIOLET SOCIETY** was held March 29, 1958, at the Sabold School, Springfield, Delaware County, Pennsylvania. The theme of the show was "Our Birthday Table of Violets" with a total of three hundred ninety-five show plants on display, plus ten varieties related to violets, making a total of four hundred five exhibit plants.

Mrs. W. B. Fenwick was show chairman with Mrs. John R. Ricker serving as cochairman.

● **THE TRI-COUNTY AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** of Glens Falls, New York, gave its fourth annual African violet show at Nelson Street Grange Hall, March 29-30, 1958. "Any Time Is Violet Time" was the theme of the show.

An interesting window display used an old log on a mossy bank which was filled with violets. Tiny animals played on log and bank. Queen of the show, sweepstakes, best New York state registered plant, best arrangement awards were all won by Mrs. Elsie Stomper. Runner-up to sweepstakes, and second best arrangement was won by Mrs. Ann Smith. Runner-up for queen of the show and second best New York State plant went to Miss Marjorie Sexton. Mrs. Ruthmary MacNeil won third on an arrangement and Mrs. Edith Buckley won fourth. The best novelty planting was won by Mrs. Sadie Green.

● **THE METROPOLITAN AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS**, held its fourth annual show March 30, 1958, in the Arts and Science Center at Glen Oak Park Pavilion. "Moments to Remember" was the theme of this show, and individual displays carried out the theme in an attractive way. The fourth anniversary birthday cake had four tiers of violets, frosted with lace, revolving with two lovely hanging baskets filled with blooming violets on the sides.

The Illinois plaque was filled with plants from the collection of Mrs. L. B. Hotchkiss. Outstanding plants in this display were White Orchid, Amazon Applause, and a mutation of a T. V. plant. A number of new originations were exhibited that soon will be introduced. Mrs. Edward Goble served as chairman of the show with Mrs. Melvin Farney and Mrs. Earl Dunning as cochairmen. Mrs. Joe Beradi was staging chairman.

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● **HAINES CITY AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY**, Haines City, Florida, held its first African Violet display in March at the Post Office Arcade in the Home Service Room. The theme of the display was "Violets in the Heart of the Sunshine State." A large white heart decorated in flamingo pink was the focal point of the display. The center of the heart held a large plant of Sailor's Delight. Banked with palmetto leaves, with violets of all colors nestled in Spanish moss at the base, the heart made a most pleasing southern setting.

Mrs. David Buchta served as general chairman of the display, and it was through her efforts that the local society was organized in April of 1957. Many awards were given for outstanding plants. A propagating display created much interest.

● **THE LANSING SAINTPAULIANNES** held Violet Open House at the home of Mrs. Ivan Cummins April 10, 1958. More than one hundred specimen plants were displayed, and beautiful arrangements were used throughout the home. Mrs. Darrell Taylor did the judging on a merit basis.

Mrs. George Greminger won first place with her plant of Strike-Me-Pink, and Mrs. Cummins won second with a plant of Dresden Dream. Mrs. Harold England registered the guests. Mrs. Greminger explained the propagating of seedlings, and Mrs. Kenneth Pitts displayed her ceramics. Refreshments were served, with Mrs. Elmer Barnes and Mrs. William Stolk presiding. A one o'clock luncheon preceded the open house at which the birthday of Mrs. Guy Hudson was celebrated. She and the hostess received orchid corsages.

● **THE GLASS CITY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB** held its African violet show April 11-12, 1958, at Hudson's Holiday Hall, Toledo, Ohio. Exhibition tables had skirts of white satin. National and state entry tables had skirts of white satin draped with pink net, accented with purple and orchid ribbon bows. Other tables had pink satin.

National Gold Ribbon Award went to Mrs. Carl Fleming. National Purple Ribbon Award went to Mrs. Charles Crawford. The Irene Fleming award, given for the best specimen seedling grown from seeds given to each member by Mrs. Fleming in May of 1957, was won by Mrs. Charles Suhr. This award was a pink special award ribbon and an engraved sterling silver bowl.

Queen of the show went to Mrs. Stanley Miller for her plant of Ruffled Triumph. Largest plant specimen went to Mrs. Carl Fleming, as did the sweepstakes award. Best double pink, a plant of Pink Masterpiece, was won by Mrs. Suhr. Best double white, a plant of White Pride, was won by Mrs. Stanley Miller. Awards for these two winners were sets of cut glass water glasses donated by a former member of the club.

● "African Violet Stairway to the Stars" was the theme of the **MEMPHIS & SHELBY COUNTY** twelfth annual African violet spring show which was held April 12-13, 1958. Mrs. Boyd Scarbrough served as show chairman. The theme of the show was well carried out by a curved stairway of six steps, each step holding one white, one pink, one lavender, and one purple double violet. Each plant had a collar of a gold star, and on each side of the stairway was a large star edged in pink tulle, which held five double white and double pink African violets. The color scheme of pink and white was carried throughout the show.

Sweepstakes winner was Mrs. C. J. Causey. Mrs. Wm. F. Murrah won the Heckle trophy for best in the show, and the J. C. Cowen Revere bowl for the best double, which was White Puff. Mrs. C. George Webb received the tricolor award for best in arrangement which carried out the theme. Mrs. Murrah donated a very large plant of Swirling Petticoats for the lucky ticket for the wishing well.

● **THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, PENNSYLVANIA**, held its second annual show April 16, 1958, at the First Presbyterian Church. The theme "April Showers" was carried out with beautifully decorated umbrellas, and a flower garden of African violets.

A plant of Holiday, shown by Mrs. George T. Williams, was awarded queen of the show. Mrs. Williams also won sweepstakes for the most blue ribbons. A total of one hundred and ninety plants was entered besides many plants used in displays. Mrs. George T. Williams served as general chairman, Mrs. Edward Imhoff was staging chairman.

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● **THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF THE MUSCLE SHOALS AREA**, Florence, Alabama, held its eighth annual show in the basement of the First Methodist Church on April 10-11, 1958. The theme of the show was "April Showers", and was carried out in all arrangements. The focal point was a long table with nylon cloth in pink. On one end was a fountain, and in the center a pastel umbrella trimmed with lace. Violets of all hues peeped from the base of the fountain and from under the umbrella. Mrs. J. E. Barnett was general chairman, and Mrs. Frank Headrick was staging chairman. Mrs. Almon T. Kennedy is president of the club.

Queen of the show award went to Mrs. W. F. Parks for her plant of Navy Bouquet. Mrs. J. T. Taylor took queen of arrangements with her driftwood and violets.

● "Spring Showing of Violets" was the theme of the fourth annual **SIOUX FALLS SAINT-PAULIA SOCIETY**, Sioux Falls, North Dakota show which was held April 12-13, 1958.

Sweepstakes winner was Mrs. E. E. Seubert for the best plant of the show. Mrs. W. E. Poley won the best arrangement carrying out the theme of the show, which was a plastic hat box with a violet inside; another hat on top of box turned upside down with violet plant in it. Mrs. E. E. Seubert is president of the society, Mrs. Benjamin Levine served as chairman of the show assisted by Mrs. James Davidson as cochairman.

● **THE MISSOURI VALLEY AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** held its annual show April 12-13, 1958, at the Y. W. C. A.

Mrs. Jennie Phalp had best plant in the show and was also winner of sweepstakes. Mrs. L. A. Beck was runner-up for best plant and Miss Dorothy Curtis was runner-up for sweepstakes. Mrs. H. Cramer had best plant for window grown plants and Mrs. W. A. Jenkins was runner-up in this class. Mrs. L. A. Beck served as show chairman.

● **THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB** held its 7th annual spring show April 13, 1958, at Town Hall in Geneseo, New York. Mrs. Andrew Ingerick was show chairman.

"April Showers" was the theme chosen, and was carried out with a landscape and evergreens, forsythia and pussy willows as a background for the table. The queens of the show, runners-up, rosettes, silver bowls and plates awarded to them were displayed.

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Queen of the show was won by Mrs. Olin Owen, Livonia, New York, with a specimen of Strike-Me-Pink. Runner-up to queen was won by Mrs. Fred Flory, Geneseo, New York, with a plant of So Sweet. Junior queen was won by Mrs. Fred Flory with a pink seedling. Runner-up to junior queen was won by Lewis Cook, Gainesville, New York, with a plant of Dassel. Mrs. Fred Flory won sweepstakes with the most blue ribbons in the horticultural classes and Lewis Cook was runner-up.

The blue rosette awarded by New York State Society for plants originated and registered from New York was won by Mrs. Olin Owen. The red rosette went to Mrs. Ethel Wingate, Livonia, New York. Mrs. Elmer E. Ace won best of the show in decorative classes with an arrangement of driftwood and coral. Mrs. Harold Stanton won runner-up with a composition in unusual container.

● **THE BEATRICE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** of Beatrice, Nebraska, held its 6th annual noncompetitive show April 12-13, 1958, at the Municipal Auditorium with Mrs. A. J. Sanders as chairman.

The theme of the show was "Any Time is Violet Time." The idea was carried out by a huge clock on the stage, substituting violets for the numbers on the clock. There were ten display tables, each with especially designed clocks.

● **THE CAPITAL CITY AND SACRAMENTO SAINTPAULIA SOCIETIES** held their joint 7th annual show on April 12-13, 1958, at the Clunie Auditorium, Sacramento, California, with Mrs. Helen Gray as chairman. "Violets Around the World" was chosen as theme of the show and was carried out in a stage display showing an Oriental garden and a western ranch scene, with many lovely African violets predominating.

Mrs. Edith Barton received both the Capital City and Sacramento Society sweepstakes awards, as well as the best Pink Flare award. Best plant in show trophy was awarded to Mrs. C. N. LaDue for her entry of Wintry Night. Runners-up were Skyway, entered by Helen Tufts, and Swirling Petticoats, entered by Mrs. Barton.

Commercial division trophy went to Mrs. Helen Gray. Novice of the year trophy to Mrs. T. J. Bezouska; best San Juan trophy to Ronnie Hall; best amateur display to Mrs. Edna Hederstedt; best novice display to Mrs. Pauline Duart; junior division trophy ages 5-9, Gaile Gray; ages 10-13, Marty Gregg; ages 14-18, Robin McGinnis.

● **THE RALEIGH AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY**, Raleigh, North Carolina, held its third annual show April 11-12-13, 1958, at Woolworth's Cameron Village Store. The theme of the show was "Symphony of Violets." This was featured by a miniature grand piano with a doll pianist and conductor and an orchestra of violets in blue, pinks, white and multicolors.

Mrs. O. D. Fleming, Jr., was sweepstakes winner and Mrs. M. J. Silvers was runner-up. Tricolor winner in the show was Mrs. Fleming's plant Congo King. Mrs. G. C. Lamb was tricolor winner in the arrangement section. Mrs. R. R. Blackburn, Mrs. B. W. Hackney, Jr., and Mrs. C. A. Daniels of High Point, North Carolina, were the judges. Mrs. M. J. Silvers was show chairman.

● **THE UNCLE SAM AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** of Troy, New York, held its first show at the Renesselaer County Historical Society April 12-13, 1958. The theme of the show was "Premier Performance." The first night idea was carried out through the entire show.

Queen of the show went to Mrs. Frank Bell. Runner-up went to Mrs. Frank Bell. Sweepstakes award went to Mrs. Frank Bell and sweepstakes runner-up to Mrs. Violet Carey. Best arrangement was won by Mrs. Bernard Showalter and second arrangement award went to Mrs. Joan Van Wert. National Award was given to Mrs. Frank Bell and state award to Mrs. Violet Carey. In the commercial class awards were given to Mrs. Allen Read and Martha Rose.

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● **THE LONG ISLAND AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** held its fourth annual show in the VFW Building in Freeport, Long Island, April 12-13, 1958. "Violet Colorama" was the theme chosen for the show.

Mr. and Mrs. George Gillen won the tricolor and the founder's rotating trophy for the best plant in the show, which was White Puff. Mrs. Alexander Colyer won the Ruth J. Wyckoff trophy for the second best plant which was a Double Pink Cheer. This plant also won a special award for being the largest plant in the show, measuring 20½ inches in diameter. Mrs. Howard Poulson won the tricolor and the Minnie Finkenstadt rotating trophy for the best arrangement, which was a miniature, measuring six inches over all. Mrs. Walter Purdue won sweepstakes in arrangements, and Mrs. Harold Robinson won sweepstakes in horticulture.

The show was under the able chairmanship of Homer Boltz. The National Gold Ribbon Award was won by Mrs. John Nirmaier.

● The National Gold Ribbon Award went to George Wessale at the 7th annual African Violet Show of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, when **THE CEDAR VALLEY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB** had its spring show. Queen of the show went to Stanley Nemec for his plant of DuPont Lavender Pink which measured twenty-six inches across. The grand award for table arrangement went to Mrs. Fred Williamson. Also the grand award for individual displays went to Mrs. Fred Williamson. Blue ribbon winners were Mrs. J. Arthur Young, Mrs. Leo Bouquot, Mrs. Fred Williamson, Mrs. Stanley Nemec, Stanley Nemec, George Wessale and for table arrangements Mrs. George Wessale and Mrs. Fred Williamson. Judges were Mrs. Ward Swanson, Mrs. Ray Fountain, Mrs. Ted Cutler of Des Moines, and Mrs. Paul Rieke of Van Horne, Iowa.

● **THE METROPOLITAN AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB** of Washington, D. C. held its tenth anniversary show on April 19-20, 1958, at the U. S. Botanical Gardens. The theme of the show was a "Symphony of Violets." In the members' specimen classes, Dr. and Mrs. Thomas B. McKneely of Arlington, Va., won first, second and third and sweepstakes honors; in the arrangement class, Mrs. Frank D. Ardai of Falls Church, Va., won first place, and Mrs. Eunice Mercer of Washington, D. C. won second place and sweepstakes. In the nonmember class, specimen plants, Miss Vocille Pratt of Alexandria, Va., won first place, Mrs. Stanley E. Skelton of Falls Church second place, and Mrs. Florine Washter of College Park, Maryland, third place. In the arrangement class the best was submitted by Mrs. Ted Huffman of Cheverly, Maryland, and in the invitation class Mrs. John J. Moosberger of Cheverly, Maryland, was the blue ribbon winner.

● **THE SPRINGFIELD MISSOURI CHAPTER OF THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** held its annual show at the Sororis Club House April 19-20, 1958, with Mrs. Everett Herrick, winning the sweepstakes. Runner-up was Mrs. John Skinner. Mrs. Skinner also won top prize for the best plant in the show with a variety known as Rose Pink Queen.

Using the theme of "Showers of Violets," gay flowering plants were displayed against the background of frilly pastel parasols, driftwood, pottery, and other interesting arrangements.

● **THE POMONA VALLEY CHAPTER OF THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** held its fifth annual show April 21-22, 1958, in Friendship Hall, Church of the Brethren, LaVerne, California. Decorations, including balloons and serpentine, were effectively used to carry out the "Violet Carnival" theme, and individual plant markers were in the form of gay little pennants.

The blue ribbon in the theme division was won by Mrs. Lucille Lewallen of Upland. Sweepstakes trophy award went to Mrs. Dorothy Parker of Yucaipa. Mrs. Parker also won the southern California council rosette for the most beautifully grown plant of California origination, for her lovely specimen

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of California Dark Plum. The Houdyshel queen of the show trophy was given to Mrs. Mildred Rocheld of Yucaipa for her entry of Purple Knight.

Judges for the event were: Mrs. Carolyn Rector, San Pedro, Mrs. Ethel Thalheimer, Long Beach, Mrs. Esther Sherer and Mrs. Viola Schilling both of Los Angeles, Mrs. Elsie Staff, Inglewood, and Mr. John Rymers, Bellflower.

● **THE DES MOINES AFRICAN VIOLET CLUBS I AND II** presented their fourth annual show at the Water Works Park, April 19-20, 1958, with the theme "Fascination Violets." Specimen plants were arranged on long tables covered with pink cloths. The arrangements were displayed in purple shadow boxes.

Mrs. Charles Bump won sweepstakes and the National Award. Mrs. Bump displayed the most "Fascinating Violet," the one with the best foliage, and the largest plant. Mrs. Milo Thornton, with a plant of Meteor, had the award for most bloom. Mrs. Ethel Williams received the award for the plant with the largest bloom, a plant of White Pride Supreme. Best composition depicting the theme of the show went to Mrs. Frank Gallan; she also won sweepstakes in this division. The propagating display was an award of merit.

Show judges were Mrs. W. G. Schrenk, Manhattan, Kansas; Mrs. William Selzer, Marshall, Missouri; Mrs. A. A. Rose, Story City, Iowa; Mrs. Wray Wisters, Kamrar, Iowa; Mrs. P. H. Pickworth and Mrs. Walter Brayman of Des Moines, Iowa. Mrs. Ray Fountain served as show chairman, assisted by Mrs. Roscoe Jones and Mrs. Ward Swanson. Mrs. Xen Lindel served as staging chairman assisted by Mrs. Ted Cutter and Mrs. Hoyt Naylor.

● **THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF CANTON, OHIO**, held its sixth annual show at Polsky's store, April 28, 1958. The theme of the show was "A Wedding of the Violets." Tables were covered with pale pink. Entry cards and smaller variety identification cards were cut in the shape of white wedding bells edged with gold.

The gold cup award for best plant in the show went to Mrs. H. J. Ehret for Double Pink Boy. The National Gold Ribbon went to Mrs. Ralph Hill for Blue Nocturne, Edith Cavell, and Sunrise. The National Purple Ribbon went to Mrs. Carl Haglund for Crimson Challenge, Hildegard, and Summer Cloud. Ohio state award went to Mrs. Ralph Hill for Robinhood, Student Prince, and Triping Edge.

The largest plant in the show was a White Puff exhibited by Mrs. Carl Haglund. The smallest plant was Hildegard exhibited by Mrs. J. C. Black. The most blue ribbons for specimens went to Mrs. Hill, second place went to Mrs. Haglund, and third to Mrs. Carlos Parks.

Judges were Mrs. Pearle Turner, Mrs. Helen Pochurek, Mrs. Mary Meads, and Mrs. C. J. Blair. A commercial display was put on by the Albert Kehl Greenhouse of Canton. Chairman of the show was Mrs. Ralph Hill, assisted by her committee.

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● **THE STORY CITY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB OF STORY CITY, IOWA**, held its second annual show April 29, 1958, in St. Petri Church parlors. "Violet Holiday" was chosen as theme of the show. Best plant in the show award went to Mrs. A. A. Rose. Largest blooming plant and the plant with most bloom award also went to Mrs. A. A. Rose. The plant with most beautiful foliage was exhibited by Mrs. S. W. Williams. The smallest blooming plant was exhibited by Mrs. Jasper Erickson.

Mrs. A. A. Rose won the most blue ribbons, twenty-two in all. Runners-up were Mrs. Iver Egenes, Mrs. S. W. Williams, and Miss Angela Baldus. Judges for the show were Mrs. Leo R. Brown, Mrs. Ray Fountain, Mrs. Milo J. Thornton, Mrs. George Ilstrup, Mrs. Roscoe E. Jones, and Mrs. Q. Lindel all of Des Moines, Iowa.

● **THE WILLOWS AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** entered a display in the Willows Monday Afternoon Club Flower Show April 28, 1958. This was a noncompetitive show. The theme of the display was "Childhood Memories" and it was carried out by shadow box treatment. In Willows there is a "Lamb Derby" each year, so for "Memory," a little girl's dream of becoming derby queen was chosen. A lovely doll was placed on the left side of the stage with two toy lambs at her feet. A carpet of violet plants started at the left front and continued across the stage to the right rear. The background was crushed pink velvet with lime green wings at the sides. The frame was a homemade invention of corrugated paper cut out and decorated with cake icing, and the whole thing gilded. It caused quite a sensation.

● **THE TUCSON AND OLD PUEBLO AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETIES** held their first annual violet show on March 1-2, 1958, at the Y.W.C.A. "Violet Time" was chosen for the theme. There were one hundred sixty entries in specimen and arrangement classes.

The sweepstakes was won by Mrs. Helen Lee. The best plant in the show was entered by Mrs. Evelyn Baldwin. Mrs. Elinor S. Sundt won the award for best arrangement.

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- 1953 — Mrs. Ronald B. Reaume, Detroit, Michigan.
- 1954 — Mrs. E. L. Perdue, Donaldson, Tennessee.
- 1955 — Rev. Harold L. Thompson, Birmingham, Michigan.
- 1956 — Mrs. L. A. Beck, St. Joseph, Missouri.
- 1957 — Mrs. J. R. Bush, Muncie, Kansas.
- 1958 — Mrs. Edward Casey, Rochester, New York

NEW AFFILIATED CHAPTERS

Maxine Wangberg, 303 S. Central Avenue, Harlowton, Montana

FIRST AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF RIVER FALLS, WISCONSIN, Mrs. Glenn Te Hennepe, president, 538 East Cedar Street, River Falls, Wisconsin

MR. & MRS. AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, INDIANA, Eugene Hamilton, president, 234 East Ewing, South Bend, Indiana

SNOWMOUNTAIN AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, WASHINGTON, Mrs. Paul Lunbom, president, 802 South 35th Avenue, Yakima, Washington

KIMBERLY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, INDIANA, Mrs. George Scott, president, 3636 North Layman Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana

FIRST AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA, Mrs. Leon Tiaht, president, 217 St. Charles, Rapid City, South Dakota

DESERT AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, ARIZONA, Mrs. Ora Ragsdale, president, 448 East 2nd Street, Tucson, Arizona

Dear Affiliated Chapter Members,

It was nice meeting so many of you at the Rochester Convention and ~~I know that contacts made~~ there will be of great benefit to me in future work with Chapter officers and members.

I wish to convey my appreciation to the members who took of their valuable Convention time to attend the Affiliated Chapters workshop meeting held on Friday afternoon. I feel that several items important to the smooth functioning of the Chapter's work, and confusing to the members present, were worked out. These workshop meetings are to be an active part of the 1959 Convention in Detroit, Michigan, so any suggestion that you may have or any problem that you wish to be discussed, I would be very happy if you would write me so that I may add it to the list of things to be brought up at that meeting.

A great deal of mail is still being sent to the Knoxville office. Won't you please send all mail pertaining to the Affiliated Chapters to me and not the office? Sending it to Knoxville not only makes more work for Margaret Travis, who opens all mail, but also slows memberships as well. I keep a record of all memberships paid through the Affiliated Chapters in two files so it is necessary for me to have these memberships, and they are being forwarded to me for these records.

More and more slide programs, books and other materials are being added to the Library for your use at club meetings, won't you use them? Write Mrs. Jack Yakie, Box 674, Port Arthur, Texas, she is most willing to assist you.

Cordially,
Maxine Wangberg

TALLY TIME AGAIN

Daisy Jones, 1328 Sterick Building,
Memphis 3, Tennessee

Yes, here I am again seeking my yearly information for the Sixth Annual Tally . . . or in just plain words, American African Violet Selections (A.A.V.S.) for 1958. As President of your local Affiliated Chapter of the National Society, won't you please forward to me your answers to these four questions:

1. Did your club have a Show or Display during 1958?
2. Which variety won the "Best in Show" award?
3. Which three registered named varieties won the National Gold Ribbon?
4. Which three registered named varieties won the National Purple Ribbon?

Information for this Tally must be received by me not later than October 15, 1958. Thanks a million for your co-operation.

BRYAN CHEMICAL CO.

27 So. Gay Street
BALTIMORE 2, MARYLAND



If you really want to see how easy it is to grow violets with prize winning blossoms and foliage, why not try the new liquid plant food GARDEN JOY.

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AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE SAVED OUR LIVES

Lorraine Harriss, Washington, D. C.

On Thanksgiving Day my husband and I took another couple with us in our little four-place Cessna for a visit to Williamsburg. We had a very nice trip enroute and on arrival there enjoyed the beautiful historic buildings and places of interest.

About noon the weather began changing, with a little rain now and then, so we decided it would be best to start back before the weather became worse. At the airport we checked on weather conditions and learned from someone who had just landed that everything was all right. We decided to start, feeling that if conditions became worse we could come back and take a train home.

For a while everything was fine, then it began raining more and fogging up very quickly. When we turned to go back, we were greeted with more of the same thing and ended up flying around in circles trying to get out of the bad weather. We finally flew low enough to be able to see the ground at times and get out of the thick fog. By this time we were completely lost and were too low to be able to use the radio to get our bearings. With high tension wires appearing every now and then, we were anxious to just get down at any airport, but were unable to find one.

Finally, after circling around for over an hour, we became desperate and picked out a farmer's field for an emergency landing. As we were going down to look it over more closely for holes before landing, we apparently made quite a noise as folks around came running out of their homes to see what was going on. We decided to make one more attempt before landing and drop the folks a note asking where the airport was located. We had a copy of Newsweek in the plane and dropped it. The men found it and pointed in the direction, but that did little good as we still did not know. My husband said we should drop another note and ask them to drive their car to the airport and we would follow.

The only thing I had left was my latest copy of the African Violet Magazine. As I have four little ones at home to keep me busy, I had taken it along, hoping to read a little on the way. I surely hated to part with it, but it seemed like a matter of life or death so we dropped it. They immediately got in their car, and with headlights on went racing down the road, forgetting about stop lights. As we had not indicated our real trouble, they figured we were about out of gas. After twenty-six miles by road, we finally spotted a little airport with a cement strip and safely landed.

My, how good that ground looked and felt! We were told that it had been raining there for days and the ground was so soggy that had we

landed in the field we would probably have crashed. At least the plane would have been pretty well demolished if we would have been fortunate enough to survive.

It was indeed a real "Thanksgiving Day," thanks to the African Violet Magazine being there to bring help to us. end

List of Donors of Door Prizes and Registration Kit Materials to the African Violet Society of America, Inc., at the Twelfth Annual Convention held at the Sheraton Hotel, Rochester, New York, April 24, 25 and 26, 1958.

African Violet Society of Livingston County, African Violet Society of Rochester and Vicinity, Antro Gardens, Atlas Fish Fertilizer Company, Bausch & Lomb Optical Company, Blanchard Florist, Boyle-Midway, Brighton Place Dairy, Bryan Chemical Company, W. Atlee Burpee Company, Inc., California Spray-Chemical Corporation, Canada Dry Ginger Ale, Inc., Coca-Cola Bottling Corporation, Community Savings Bank, The Conibers African Violets, James Conolly Printing Company, Lewis E. Cook, Craft House, John B. Davie Company, Inc., Eastman Kodak Company, Fanny Farmer Candy Shops, Fischer Greenhouses, Garfield Floral Company, Genesee Valley Humus, Genesee Valley Union Trust Company, John R. Gent & Sons, Gormel Garden Store, Granger Gardens, Great A & P Tea Company, Harris Seed Company, George B. Hart, Inc., Hart & Vick Garden Store, Hartford Fire Insurance Company, Heller Greenhouse Laboratories, Mrs. Madge Hoar, Hydroponic Chemical Company, Inc., Kelly Brothers Nursery, Kordite Company, Lifetime Markers, Lyke's African Violets, Lyndon Lyon, Madison Gardens, Maloney Bros. Nursery Company, Inc., Monroe Beverage Company, Inc., Mountain Industries, Naomi's African Violets, National Gypsum Company, Newman Florist, Peck's Quality Foods, Pepsi-Cola Rochester Bottlers, Inc., Penmark Company, Inc., B. G. Pratt Company, Plant Marvel, Popular Gardening Magazine, Ra-Pid-Gro, R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, Richard's Violet Gardens, Richter's Greenhouses, Rienhardt's African Violets, Rochester Convention & Publicity Bureau, Inc., Rochester Savings Bank, Rose Manufacturing Company, Schmelling's African Violets, Security Trust Company, Select Violet House, Seven-Up of Rochester, Inc., Smith Potting Soil Company, St. Clair Plastics, Inc., Stim-U-Plant Laboratories, Inc., The Summers Fertilizer Company, Syracuse Pottery, Taylor Instrument Company, Henry Ten Hagen, Terra-Lite Division — Zonolite Company, Tinari Greenhouses, Tyoga Products Company, Union Products, Inc., D. Van Nostrand Company, Inc., Wegman's Food Market, James H. West & Sons, Whistling Hill. end

SUCCESS WITH WICK-WATERING

Mrs. Alfred D. Swaim, Indianapolis, Indiana

The wick-watering method has been very successful for me. I have been using that method for quite some time and have grown some very lovely African violets. I grow all my plants with wicks with the exception of my experimentals.

I buy 7/32 inch glass wicking, cut in four inch lengths, then pull apart and braid, using one-half for the two and one-half and three inch pots, and one-fourth for the smaller pots. However, if one were expecting to be away for a period of time I would say to use longer wicks and larger containers for the water. I sterilize the used wicks in a Clorox solution and reuse them. I have a friend who used half-gallon jars. When she returned from a two weeks trip she found her African violets lovelier than when she went away, with water to spare!

I use mostly clay pots but have grown some very nice African violets in the plastic pots. I do not use larger than three inch pots. I use aluminum foil around the tops, spread the wick over the bottom of the pot and then place a piece of broken pot over the hole in the bottom. Lightly place the soil, with a small scoop, around the violet — DO NOT PACK SOIL! I then water the plant from the top with one teaspoon of fifty percent Chlordane to one quart of water.

I use glass containers, any type that the pots will fit upon. I have had plants come into bloom within three months after placing the leaf.

As to the soil formula: I use a combination of woods dirt, peat, commercial cow manure and builder's sand. I sterilize these ingredients in the oven at two hundred and fifty degrees for one hour, then mix and add Activo, P40 and VC-13. Therefore I have no fear that my potting soil contains any harmful organisms. I do not add vermiculite to my potting soil as I feel it holds too much moisture.

Rules that govern repotting plants in wick-fed pots are the same as for the usual method. Pull the wick from the bottom and push the plant up by using a small stick pressed against the piece of pot over the hole. I do not disturb the roots, just place the plant in the next larger size pot and fill in around it with new soil.

I use one-half measure of Plant Marvel to one quart of water, and use this with every watering.

One glance at the glass containers and I can see if a plant is in need of water. I do not aim for my plants to get dry, and NEVER let the pot extend into the water. Apparently the plants take just the right amount they need. The amount varies with growing conditions.

Continued next column.

NIGHT TEMPERATURES FOR VIOLETS

Leonard K. Brewer, Wyandotte, Michigan

A question that pops up quite frequently from visitors is, "What temperature do you maintain at night for your violets?" The answer is, "5 to 10° cooler than during the day." There is a good reason for this.

I definitely believe that African violets are benefited by a temperature drop at night. And especially so during the summer. The principle is the same as your garden outdoors. Have you ever noticed your garden flowers wilt on a hot day, and in the cool of the evening they perk up and look refreshed? Violets react the same way.

Violets grown under cool evening temperatures always have a crisp feeling to their leaves and seem to glisten; they have lots of "body" and their leaves are actually "thick." True, they may develop more slowly, but they are not forced and last much longer. Under cool conditions, blossoms remain on the plant for several weeks and reach a much larger size than if grown quite warm. Blossoms, too, appear to be of a heavier texture.

One thing to be on the alert for is over-watering. When your night temperatures are lower, the soil does not dry out as rapidly. If you continued a regular watering schedule, rot could result. However, if you hover over your plants like most of us do, there is not much danger of that condition.

If your violets are grown in your basement, temperatures are not difficult to control. It will naturally be cooler during the summer and, of course, the winter, also. But during the winter you can always open up another heat duct if it gets too cool.

Be sure and spray the basement floor liberally with water from your laundry hose. That cool, humid air will do wonders for your plants!

end

Very often long white roots will come from the bottom of the pot and extend down into the wick, an indication that this method promotes good root systems.

I also use lattice lath for slats on a granite pan I use for small plants, thereby watering several plants at one time.

I have successfully grown violets in Sponge-Rok in wick-fed plastic pots, and find this setup especially ideal for rerooting. They thrive and bloom.

I feel the wick-watering method is the secret (for me) of beautiful violets.

end

YOUR LIBRARY

Maisie Yakie, Librarian, P. O. Box 674

Port Arthur, Texas

It is always a pleasure to begin by thanking people for the nice things they have done, and this time I am fortunate to be able to thank a whole host of folks: Dr. Charles Fischer, for slides to make up a complete slide program, Henry Peterson for slides to add to our present program on African violet diseases, and to Mr. and Mrs. Everett Hammond for making available to the Library many new slides of gesneriads. Our thanks also to the numerous growers who were kind enough to open their greenhouses for us to photograph and who gave of their very valuable time that we might obtain the good new slides for your enjoyment. Thanks also to those of you who attended the work shop on Program Planning at the Rochester Convention; your sincere interest and enthusiasm were heartening to behold. To all of the above wonderful people and to many, many others who have helped in other ways, we express our sincere thanks and appreciation.

The Year Books that are entered in the annual Year Book Contest become the property of the Library and are made up into Year Book Collections. These are always a treasure house to me and I jealously save them until I can spend an entire evening going through them and noting the many really worthwhile program ideas that are to be found there. In the months ahead I will be bringing you many of the ideas derived from these newest year books. In each instance I will also give you the name of the club and its membership so that you can see just how much work is being done by the small and middle-sized clubs as well as the larger groups.

With the ever increasing knowledge and interest in hybridizing by the amateur grower, there is becoming a real need to learn just what qualities are to be looked for in the seedlings being produced in such prodigious quantity all over the country. Not only is this knowledge helpful to the amateur hybridizer but it is also invaluable to every one who grows violets, since by knowing and analysing the desirable traits of the plants in general, we shall be able to select the more outstanding varieties as they appear and those less worthy will automatically find their way into discard. The West Chicago Social Violet Club (organized in 1955, 9 members) had a program on "What the Hybridizer Looks For." Along these same lines there was a wonderful article in a recent issue of the African Violet Magazine on this very topic, and could well form the basis for your program. Along this same general topic, the Detroit African Violet

Club, Detroit, Michigan, (organized 1949, 21 members) has scheduled a program on "New Varieties of Saintpaulia, Careless Breeding and Naming of Seedlings That Should Be Discontinued."

There is always a need and a place for the work a club can do for the good of its community. One striking example of this is from the Columbia African Violet Society, Columbus, Ohio, (organized 1949, 104 members). This club has a project "Flower Therapy for Retarded Children" which is "a planned program of monthly service by members in teaching these children 'How to Grow Things.'" In a program on LEAVES this group had the following topics (each with a different club member handling): Kinds of Leaves, When to Remove Them, How to Cut Leaves, Methods of Propagation. These leaves were then sold for their Flower Therapy Project. This program has accomplished at least two worthy things: it has covered one of the basic items of knowledge for the African violet grower and it has also aided in their project.

There seems to be a growing interest and experimentation in the use of plastic pots both by the amateur and the professional grower. The Admiral Chapter of the Aurora African Violet Society, Aurora, Illinois, (organized 1949, 25 members) has a program on "Clay Pots vs. Plastic or Ceramic Pots" and in such a program the merits and demerits of each type of container could be discussed in a panel or round table discussion. Of course if some advance planning were done, a fascinating display could be worked up for this by growing the same variety of African violet in containers of the three different types under the same cultural conditions as far as light, humidity, etc., were concerned. Then the club could see for itself just how growth was or was not affected. Also the members who did this could clearly explain the difference in the cultural practices for the different types of containers.

There are many new slide programs in the mill for your pleasure. Now available are the following: DOUBLE HEADER — 57 slides showing Lyon's named varieties and plants from Gent's; BEAUTIES BY FISCHER — 69 slides showing the newest of the new from this famous African violet house; LAND OF ENCHANTMENT — 81 slides showing plants from Fischer's, Tinari's and Ten Hagen's; KISSING COUSINS — a new program on gesneriads, containing nearly all new slides (when desiring gesneriad slides in the future please ask for this program instead of the Wilson, Fantastic Gardens slides as these have been reworked and no program of this name now exists). I would like to emphasize that the slides of Fischer's and Tinari's are all brand new and that the old programs on Fischer's Greenhouses have been removed from the Library.

Continued bottom next page.

DRASTIC SURGERY

Marie Dannemiller, Barberton, Ohio

About two years ago I purchased several dozen small plants from a commercial grower. When I started to transplant them into my own potting mix, I found every plant infested with nematodes. I had paid too high a price to throw them out, so I took a pair of sharp pointed barber shears and cut off every root on every plant. I put each plant into a small, dark bottle to reroot in water, and when they had roots about one-fourth inch long, I planted them in pots of vermiculite to which I had added Elk-Organic (see December 1957 African Violet Magazine, page 23). There were no signs of nematodes on the new roots.

Oftentimes when a tray of leaves has been planted, nematodes are found on the roots of some of the plants. The first thought is to pitch the whole thing out, but don't do it — a lot of work has gone into the care of those leaves. I know the nematodes can be destroyed by the mycorrhizal fungi and bacteria contained in Elk-Organic, which, by the way, was first marketed under the name of Elk-Organite. I have had wonderful success with this product; but there have been instances where a plant is so completely infested with nematodes that nothing will help and it should be destroyed. end

The Board of Directors has given your Librarian permission to try an innovation and we are quite eager to see how well it will be accepted. There is now a slide program showing 25-30 of the very newest introductions from the major growers, such as Tinari, Fischer, Lyon, and Grangers, as well as others. This program is available only to individual members of the African Violet Society, with the thought in mind that there has been long a need for the many hundreds of members who are scattered across the country with no club membership available to them for any of a number of reasons, to have access to information such as slides of the new varieties. These members are just as eager to see the new introductions as are the members who are more fortunate and belong to Affiliated Chapters. Therefore, this set of slides will be available to individual members for their own enjoyment at a fee of \$1.00. They will not be sent to nonmembers of the society nor will they be sent to anyone for use in presenting garden club programs, etc. They are intended as a service to the members of the African Violet Society for their own enjoyment and education. This slide program will be known as "Kaleidoscope 1958". Also, available of course, are the ROCHESTER CONVENTION SLIDES.

The pot is already on, boiling on some more end

SPECIAL NEW VARIETIES 50¢ EACH

This list (1958RB) brings you 39 of the newest available varieties and introductions and contains many startling new flower and leaf types. Rooted leaves of them are only 50¢ each. (See page 64 in your March African Violet Magazine for 60 additional varieties ready for shipping).

- AFRICAN GIRL—Large, fringed deep purple, single, girl.
- ANN RUTLEDGE—Veined blue and white single flower, girl leaf.
- BLUE PEAK GIRL—Dbl. purple Geneva flower, girl leaf.
- CHARTREUSE LACE—Fringed single white with chartreuse edge.
- CHIPPWEA—Fringed deep pink, very dark leaf.
- DAY TIDE—Dbl. white with dark pink center.
- DBL. PEACH BLOSSOM—Dbl. peach pink on very dark foliage.
- FINE SWANK—Dbl. pink and blue combinations. Similar to "Swank" but far superior in growth.
- FRINGED APPLE BLOSSOM—Dbl. fringed pink, lighter on edges.
- FRINGED POM POM—Dbl. fringed lavender and white with excellent chartreuse edging.
- GENEE—Very deep, bluish pink, fringed single, at times mottled with white.
- HOLIDAY SPORT—Deeper pink colored sport of Holiday.
- KIMBERLEY—Dbl. powder puff blue with white edging.
- LITTLE SWEETHEART—Dbl. fringed medium pink.
- LONGIFOLIA DBL. PINK—Deep dbl. fringed pink on long dark wavy leaf.
- NOVELY—Star shaped single white with pink center.
- MARK ROBERTS—Six petalled star flower, blue and white.
- MENDOTA—Dbl. fringed medium lavender.
- MY CHOICE—Large dbl. pink and white on girl foliage.
- MY SIN—A real starter! Holiday color double, star shape flowers.
- NANCY HANKS—Huge, fringed single light blue.
- PINK BABYBREATHE—Semi-dbl. pink and white, girl foliage.
- PINK GLAMOUR—Mammoth dbl. fringed medium pink.
- PINK SEQUIN—Unusual purplish pink fringed single.
- POP CORN—A miniature dark dbl. pink girl.
- PRELUDE—Vigorous dbl. pink and white.
- PRIMATIF—Huge single (star shape), Holiday color flower.
- RUFFLED BI—Truly different! Single fringed purple and white with top petals lighter.
- SILVER FLUTE—The albino "Holly" type foliage is outstanding.
- SKY BLUE PINK—Dbl. variegated pink and purple on dark red backed, quilted foliage.
- SPAN—Dbl. pink in the new star shaped flowers.
- SPELLBOUND—Large mottled dark blue and white dbl. Comes true.
- SPIC—Dark blue dbl. in the new "star shaped" flowers.
- STAR PINK (new)—Deep single star pink on dark foliage.
- STAR WHITE—Single star shaped white (with a trace of blue).
- STARLIGHT BLUE—Single star shaped light blue and white.
- TILLIE—Single star shaped lavender, large flowers.
- VALLIN PINK PETTICOATS—Strong growing fringed single pink with chartreuse edge.
- WARM WELCOME—Bi-colored lavender and white with top petals light.

PLEASE NOTE: To speed delivery, all orders are sent by first-class mail, using blocks of commemoratives. No orders are accepted under \$3.00, and on orders below \$5.00 please add 50¢ for postage and packing. Airmail is 50¢ extra up to a \$5.00 order and 5¢ more for each \$1.00 of the order above that. We guarantee safe delivery anywhere in the United States. All cuttings are labeled and true to name.

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HINTS AND REMINDERS

Esther E. Schadewald, Havertown, Pennsylvania

1. Leaves will grow plantlets in six weeks' time if placed in a fish aquarium. Use two inch plastic pots, cover bottom with one inch of woods soil and sand, then fill pot with Terra-Lite. Place newly cut leaf in pot to root. When roots grow they will have the woods soil to feed them. Place pots in large aquarium (20" x 10½" x 12"), then cover the aquarium with glass. If moisture forms too heavily, remove glass occasionally. Keep on window sill — northeast exposure is best. If soil in pots is wet when planted, only about three tablespoons of water need be added in six weeks' time. Plantlets can stay in these same pots for a long time because of soil mix around the root system.

2. African violet newcomers should be kept in quarantine for at least one month or longer. Every plant in my collection is given sodium selenate, as a cyclamen mite preventive, twice a year. Why not conserve your hours of care in this way, knowing that your plants will be healthier? You will also protect your investment by not having to buy replacements.

3. Do not kill plants with kindness by over-watering. My plants are left a longer time without water when in the cellar under lights. They are also further away from my watering can, and are healthier for it. Rain water is best.

4. When using tube lights, place dark foliage closer to lights, light foliage further away. Keep pink flowers and white flowers further away from lights at edge of table.

5. Plants should be kept pot-bound. Keep in small two inch pots until soil is almost used up by root system or until plant becomes top-heavy and upsets; then place in not one-half inch larger, not moving soil surrounding root system; fill in sides with teaspoonful at a time of new soil.

6. Water with warm water, under foliage when top soil is dry, until water starts to seep through bottom of pot. Always make sure that top soil is dry before adding more water.

7. Those old, long-necked plants may be rejuvenated by cutting off neck to within one and one-half inches of plant and growing new root system in goblets of water. Then replant.

8. Overfeeding can cause distortion similar to mite symptoms. Crown leaves become multiple although healthy looking, rather than twisted and misshapen as when cyclamen mite exists.

9. Too much humidity without circulating air can cause rot. Be sure not to enclose tube light tables too tightly with curtains. Allow open space for evaporation of moisture.

10. Plastic pots require less watering than clay pots. It is safer to use all one kind for same requirement of watering.

11. Feed about twice per month according to directions on package.

12. Do not wait until plant is too old to separate into single crowns. Remove suckers with tweezers before they take strength from single crown plant.

13. If sodium selenate is given plants which already have been diseased with cyclamen mite, diseased crown leaves will not straighten out, but new growth of leaves will be normal. Cyclamen mite does not feed on mature leaves, but sucks the sap from the tender crown leaves.

14. My *Episcias*, especially *E. dianthiflora*, are blossoming profusely since I placed them in chick feeders containing slightly moist Perlite. It seems to add the necessary additional humidity they need in order to bloom.

15. Don't forget to place that pan under the rain spout when it rains. Rain water is a great help toward rapid growth of African violets.

16. African violet club members who are too busy to exhibit in shows or to serve as a hostess might wish to become "Associate Members" by paying a slightly higher rate of membership dues in their club. In this way they may enjoy their club privileges without having the obligations of a regular member.

17. An interesting entry for an African violet show was as follows:

Three named varieties — single crown plants. Pots are to be covered with aluminum foil. Plants must be in possession of and grown by exhibitor at least six months in advance of show.

Placement chairman may arrange each entry of three plants in triangular design — inverting every other triangle, thus conserving table space.

18. In an African violet show, an exhibit of new varieties, in possession of exhibitors less than six months, always spurs enthusiasm for collectors. This class need not be judged. end

FRESH CUT LEAVES — POSTPAID

Small plants now available for shipping.

Wandering Minstrel

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Tucson, Arizona

WHAT IS IT?

Rev. Nelson Garcia, Hopkinsville, Kentucky

Since last fall my violets have been plagued with something. At first I thought that I had let them get too dry during the summer and when I began to boost them into fall growth and early bloom they just sat there, and sat there and sat there. They were young plants that were getting well-established in the spring from leaves (rooted earlier). I was expecting phenomenal results when they decided to sit. Later I noticed the flowers coming dwarfed on some plants, colors changing, knots in the flower stem and the leaves curling, becoming very brittle and covered with a grey, chalky substance or fuzz. From every description of disease I could find I finally decided that I had a bumper crop of cyclamen mite. Nothing seemed to describe the condition so well as that. I have Wilson's book on violets and so I decided that I would give the plants the hot water treatment. Followed the directions to a "T". The plants responded for a short while and then lapsed into their sitting — like depressed neurotics. After about two or three months passed by and IT was getting serious I started fumigating the plants with naphthalene flakes — in large paper bags — clothes-pinned at the top. They seemed to respond again in a short while — and I fumigated them again — but there they still sat. Still no real results.

About that time I contacted a friend whose wife is a violet-lover and he told me what he did. With me it was either save or pitch out every violet I had and start over again but that was like "mass-murder" to me. He mentioned something about the mite being just one stage of other "varmints" dwelling within the clay walls. Mentioned something about worms up the trunk of the plant, etc. Well, I decided "kill or cure." Put one less-than-rounded tablespoon of PARATHION (a common tobacco poison) 2% into a quart of warm water and dissolved it; put it in a sprayer bottle and sprayed every part of my violet, crown, leaf, stem, blossom, top and bottom; poured the solution on the soil on top and let it saturate the soil and stand in the solution for a while, maybe an hour or so. I

thought sure this was finis to my collection of about 75 pots or more. It took me until midnight or later. I thought surely it was good-bye.

I noticed something "funny." No sooner had the plant become saturated than small white bugs similar to a flea but much smaller, white and gray in color, were swimming around the plants, swimming for dear life. Later I found out it was their "swan swim." The next day they were dead. As the plants dried out I discovered small one-sixteenth to one-eighth to one-quarter inch sized fine thread-like worms wiggling around at the bottom of the pots. They were gray-white and gray-brown in color.

I have repeated the treatment about twice at the same strength and LO AND BEHOLD, my plants are growing. It is like someone had let them out of prison or the asylum. They are no longer depressive but are jumping with life, absolutely rushing to let out the imprisoned life within them. It seems they cannot bloom fast enough. And this is happening only a few weeks after I started this treatment. The only thing that is not nice about Parathion is that it leaves a white powder or dust on the plant but a paint brush will dust it off and so will a good warm water bath at the sink.

What I want to know is this — what kind of a disease or bug did I have on my violets? If anyone knows, will they please write me. I would like to know what it is so I can help someone else. (I called growers here in the city, the greenhouses, florists, etc., and none seemed to know what it was all about.) My experience has taught me something — I want to share it.
end

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Right, A western exposure provides adequate light for Mrs. Maxwell's tiered stands.



The African violets grow well in the basement. Mrs. Maxwell is pictured with a table of leaf cuttings and young plants.

SAINTPAULIAS IN NEW ZEALAND

Phyllis E. Maxwell, Auckland, New Zealand

It is with the greatest pleasure that I write this story about my experiences with one of the most exciting house plants that we, in New Zealand, have come to know. The charm and beauty of both flowers and foliage is enough to endear them to all plant lovers. Young and old knock on my door at all hours to ask to see the African violets.

Six years ago I was given a leaf from a lovely plant of the "Blue Violet," or, "Ionantha." It did well and produced a number of healthy plantlets. Each in turn grew and flowered, and became something new and exciting, in a warm glassed-in porch, filled with tropical plants and creepers. Very few people knew anything of the Saintpaulia in this country and any literature about them was unprocureable here, when I put in my first leaf. Soil mixture, watering, feeding, temperatures, were all something that I had to experiment with and find out about by trial and

error. Then a friend brought me a magazine with a short article about them, and the loveliest colour photographs of a collection in California, and you can well imagine the thrill I had seeing new colours, doubles and beautiful leaf varieties.

Fired with enthusiasm, I applied to my bank for a permit for me to procure some dollar funds (as these are in very restricted supply in New Zealand) to enable me to send to the United States for leaves and seeds. I also sent for two excellent books, one by Montague Free and the other by Helen Van Pelt Wilson. Several weeks later came a telephone call from Whenuapai, Auckland's International Airport, to say that a box of violet leaves had arrived by air freight. Two very charming members of our Air Force brought them in to me on their way to the city, and I don't think our household has ever been so excited. The young members of the household refused to go to bed until we had untied every

leaf, and exclaimed over them and sorted them. They were in beautiful condition and it was a great start to what has proved to be a wonderful hobby.

With the books which had also arrived, we were able to read and discover just what to do, and how to go about it. I had failures and successes, of course, but eventually the failures disappeared from our experiences. I really think that the seeds were the most exciting. They all seemed to grow so quickly, and soon seedlings filled every pyrex and cooking bowl in the house. I could scarcely find enough bowls to prepare our meals, but everyone was quite resigned to this state of affairs by now, and very good-naturedly bore with me.

I filled one sun room completely! Trays, tables, boxes, boards, everything that would hold the tiny pots went into the room. About 350 seedlings and 500 leaf plantlets soon grew and started to spread out wanting more space, so I moved some to another sun room that contained frangipani and stephanotis plants. This in turn was filled and I had to put a number of pots in the dining room, on window seats and tea wagons, and even on the dining table itself! No wonder the family began to grow a little apprehensive — about these developments. I soon had the house absolutely full of Saintpaulias. Then it became clear that we needed a house with more room, and preferably a basement.

When I look back, I realize that it was never once suggested that I should reduce the number of plants. That was quite out of the question, so we started a search for another home that lasted for several months. We had a very limited field, owing to the fact that my husband, a medical practitioner, had to remain reasonably near to his patients. I remember the land agent saying that he had been asked to find houses to accommodate families with lots of children, or cats, dogs or birds, but it was his first experience of looking for a suitable home for a large family of Saintpaulias! We were very lucky to find our present house, with its large basement and adjoining double garage.

The basement has been fitted with fluorescent lights, and under these are long tables well covered with plastic cloth. Here I have my violets growing and flowering in profusion. It is like peeping into fairyland when the hundreds of plants come into bloom. Unfortunately, all the plants won't fit into the basement now, so half of them grow in one of the garages, which is warm, and receives plenty of daylight.

I have tried various mediums for rooting the leaves — sand, vermiculite, Perlite, and mixtures of these, but have decided that a mixture of sand and Perlite suits my conditions best, and gives me good results with leaf propagation. The "tight shoe" in potting certainly results in profuse blooming, and starting with two inch pots, I leave the plants until they are well pot-bound and beginning to flower, then I change them to three inch pots, repeating this process for larger pots as the plants grow.

Feeding with liquid fertilizers of the foliar type is carried out twice a month, and spraying for insect pests is as regular. All watering is from the top and I use a large florist's watering-can with a very fine rose. Up until now all sterilization of sand and soil and pots has been done using the kitchen oven, and very often it is not the delicious aroma of food cooking, but the very earthy smell that fills the house from the moist, hot soil! My next ambition is to procure a small electric soil sterilizer. The potting mixture I use is one half part soil, one half part cow manure, one part sand, one part peat moss, with some bone meal, superphosphate, and sulphate of potash added. All pots are made of clay, and each is dipped into molten paraffin wax to coat the rim, thus preventing petiole rot.

In the winter months, air temperature is maintained by means of kerosene fuel convactor heaters, and humidity is easily kept high, as the basement has a layer of fine scoria under the tables, and the garage has a concrete floor, so damping down is part of the watering program, and can also be carried out at other times if necessary. It is under the tables that I keep my storage bins, and in these I put all the mixture ingredients after they have been sterilized separately. The peat moss is, of course, not sterilized.

All the year round I keep a display in the lounge, where fifteen feet of the wall is glass

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facing westwards, which is the best aspect in this southern hemisphere. The glass is screened by a venetian blind, inside which are fine gauze curtains. Outside the window is a canvas roller blind which can be lowered when the sun is hot in summer. The pots are mostly of second year plants in four inch pots and they are set out on two stands, each of three tiers. These are really paper stands of lattice steel, covered with plastic, and are ideal in that all plants get adequate light from all around and from above. These are shown in the photograph. A point of interest, perhaps, is that all these display plants are regularly bathed. They are immersed to half way up the pots in water at room temperature in the kitchen sink, and splashed all over with water. At the end of the process they look so clean and fresh they almost appear to be saying, "Thank you for a lovely bath."

My best plant is one of "Lovely Lady" which has bloomed without ceasing for the past eighteen months, and at one time had over sixty blooms on it, including one stem of twenty flowers. My largest plant was a second year plant of "Navy Bouquet" with a spread of nineteen inches in diameter. I keep all plants to a single crown, and, with the aid of toothpicks to keep an even spread of leaves, the plants grow into really beautiful rosettes of leaf and flower.

And so I spend my time, surrounded by the loveliest pot plants in the world. I have been able to give some pleasure to sick folk in hospitals and to many elderly people who cannot work in their gardens and who want some growing plant to tend. The African Violet Society's magazine is providing me with much help and interest, but oh, how tempting are some of the new varieties it describes and advertises, and that are beyond my reach. My one hope is that sometime in the future I may be able to visit the United States with my husband, and see for myself some of the lovely Saintpaulia nurseries, and bring home some of the exciting new varieties. end

IS YOUR SOIL TOO ACID?

Sometimes when plants are not progressing as they should, even though the light, water, and humidity seem correct, as well as a regular fertilizing program, it may be that there is too much acid in the soil which is causing the growing problems.

If a check shows that there is too much acidity in the soil, it is possible to correct this condition by the regular use of lime water. This may be prepared by dissolving one-fourth teaspoonful of dehydrated lime in a tablespoonful of water. Add this to about ten quarts of water. Use this lime water each time you water the plants until they are growing well and have a nice color.

It may take two or three months' time to produce satisfactory results. end

OFFICIAL PIN PRICE CHANGE

E. Pearle Turner, Pin Chairman, Akron, Ohio
The African Violet Society of America, Inc.

Since the time we started getting the pins from the jeweler, he has held line on the prices as long as possible.

Due to increased costs of material and labor, he is now forced to increase the prices on the pins as follows:

Sterling Silver Pin or Lapel Button	\$ 4.10
Sterling Silver Pin and Gavel	6.10
Sterling Silver Gavel only	2.00
14K Gold Pin or Lapel Button	\$13.95
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The "Indoor Greenhouse" for growing and displaying African violets, gloxinias and other house plants. The FLUOR-AL may be used with or without fluorescent lights. Fixtures combining fluorescent and incandescent lights are now available (optional). The FLUOR-AL is constructed entirely of solid aluminum, with full size (nearly 20" x 52") aluminum trays for bottom watering. Provision is made for mounting an automatic time switch on the top bracket, thus combining all necessary accessories into one unit. Supplied complete with all wiring, extension cords, etc.

The FLUOR-AL is the most beautiful, most practical and highest quality of all "apartment greenhouses." You will be proud to show it to your friends and customers. An exclusive feature is the ease with which the lights may be adjusted up to a maximum height of nearly 18" above the trays.

A beautiful, well proportioned model is also available with two shelves.

Send post card for full details, prices and shipping information.

Send us your order for the new book GARDENING INDOORS UNDER LIGHTS by Frederic and Jacqueline Kranz. Full information for making and using equipment for growing flowers, vegetables and other plants by artificial light. 241 pages, plus 16 pages of illustrations, \$4.95 postpaid.

We are in position to supply the light fixtures combining fluorescent and incandescent light as described in this book as well as TIME-ALL automatic controls, soil mixes, compost, plastic markers, etc. Ask for price list.

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TEN STEPS TO COURTESY

Helen Montgomery, Kansas City, Missouri

This article might appropriately be subtitled "How to Win Friends and Buy African Violets." Many people have contacted me requesting that I write an article concerning courtesies and considerations which should be extended to a certain valued member of our African violet family — the housewife who raises and sells plants in her home.

I have enumerated below a few simple rules of polite conduct which, if followed to the letter, will make you a welcome guest in any greenhouse, nursery or home (which advertises hours).

1. If you live in the same town, telephone and ask your prospective seller when it will be most convenient for you to visit.

2. If you are planning to make an "out of town" visit, drop a post card a few days ahead of your departure requesting an appointment for a certain day. This is three cents well spent, for it may save you the disappointment of not seeing and buying the plants you desire.

3. If you are requested to enter through the back or basement door, do not feel insulted. There are very few growers who raise plants in their living rooms.

4. Remove your coats prior to walking up and down the aisles between rows of plants. A great many plants have been severely damaged by being bruised or knocked over by coattails or sleeves.

5. Do not handle the plants. If you desire a closer inspection of a certain plant, point it out to the grower and request that she pick it up for you. This small courtesy will prevent broken leaves and blossoms.

6. Do not pick off any blossoms which have fallen from the plants. This is not appreciated since all of us enjoy doing our own house cleaning.

7. Do not stay for an unnecessarily lengthy period. Time is important to everyone, and violet growers must attend to their household duties and other occupations. Plan your visit ahead, so that you may inspect the plants you are considering and consummate your purchases in a short time.

8. Be patient when you have ordered plants or leaves and they fail to arrive as quickly as you had hoped. In order to provide for maximum protection during shipment your grower receives daily weather reports and forecasts, both locally and in the vicinity to which she is shipping the violets. If the weather may be detrimental to the plants, then the plants must wait.

9. Don't request a grower to repot your violets. This job requires considerable time, and, in addition, the enjoyment of undertaking and accomplishing this task is a pleasure which every violet owner should reserve for himself.

10. Do not hesitate to ask questions. All growers are happy to answer your serious queries concerning plants. In this regard I would like to recommend that everyone interested in African violets purchase an informative book on the subject. There are many on the market which will answer your questions to your utmost satisfaction and will always be on hand for ready reference. end

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Club NEWS

MAXINE WANGBERG

303 South Central Avenue, Harlowton, Montana

Deadline dates for Club News contributions: For September issue, June 1st; for December, September 1st; for March, December 1st; for June, March 1st.

The VI-CLUB OF DETROIT, MICHIGAN, elected the following officers for the coming year: president, Mrs. J. W. Marshall, vice-president, Mrs. Ward Cherry, recording secretary, Mrs. Florence Lessmeier, corresponding secretary, Mrs. James Riddle, treasurer, Mrs. Doris Bloomer.

On April 14, 1958, the FIRST AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF BELOIT, WISCONSIN, was host to the Wisconsin Council of African Violet Clubs. The business meeting was held at the Wagon Wheel at 10:30 A.M. with voting members of the six groups present, Milwaukee, Kenosha, Racine, Madison, Beloit, and Green Bay. Election of officers was held for the coming year and the following were elected to serve: president, Mrs. W. J. Hadley, vice-president, Mrs. D. E. Buchta, treasurer and secretary, Mrs. G. Turan.

Luncheon was served at 12:30, after which Mrs. M. A. Davis gave a talk on Pokon Plant Food and VC-13. Colored slides were also shown.

An auction of plants and leaves was held, proceeds going to the council.

The METROPOLITAN AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB OF WASHINGTON, D. C., elected the following officers to serve for the coming year: president, Mrs. Thomas B. McKneely, vice-president, Mrs. William T. Wilson, recording secretary, Mrs. Lala K. More, corresponding secretary, Mrs. Robert Harriss, treasurer, Dr. Charles Nearpass.

The quarterly meeting of the MICHIGAN AREA AFRICAN VIOLET COUNCIL was held at the WWJ Radio Station Auditorium on May 20, 1958. The following officers were elected: president, Mrs. Lauri Parssinen, vice-president, Mrs. George Greminger, recording secretary, Mrs. Florence Lessmeier, corresponding secretary, Mrs. J. W. Marshall, treasurer, Mr. Arthur Postler.

Installation ceremonies were conducted by Mrs. Joseph B. Gray, and the entertainment featured slides taken by several local people of recent near-by shows.

Installation of officers of the OMAHA AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, OMAHA, NEBRASKA, was held May 8, 1958, at the Ceater Roof Gardens Restaurant. Mrs. E. H. Turek conducted the installation of the following officers: president, Mrs. A. T. Swanson, vice-president, Mrs. R. M. Lueder, recording secretary, Mrs. F. R. Corson, corresponding secretary, Mrs. W. Sturges, treasurer, Mrs. F. K. Smith.

The out-going president, Mrs. W. A. Simmons was presented with a beautiful lamp and the customary violet pin.

The CAPITAL CITY SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY OF SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA, met on May 2, 1958, and elected the following officers for the coming year: president, Mrs. Holis Kiefer, vice-president, Mrs. Thomas Bezouska, secretary, Mrs. Helen Gray, treasurer, Mr. Conrad Meyer. Installation at the June meeting will be followed by a party honoring the new officers.

Meetings are held the first Friday evening of each month at the Sacramento Garden Center with a variety of interesting programs and good fellowship enjoyed by a congenial group of people interested in African violets.

The SUNSHINE CITY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB OF ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA, held its May meeting at the home of Mrs. Maude Bunce. The following officers were installed for the coming year: president, Mrs. M. L. Hitt, vice-president, Mrs. Maude Bunce, recording secretary, Mrs. Alexander Trail, corresponding secretary, Mrs. Lee Sandefur, treasurer, Mrs. Winifred Queal. Mrs. Charles Reese was the installing officer. She gave a beautiful description of a violet, depicting each officer as part of it.

Following the meeting delicious refreshments were served.

The HARMONY AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF BOISE, IDAHO, held a judging school May 6, 1958, with Mrs. Ruth Carey of Knoxville, Tennessee, as instructor. The lecture was held in the morning with a no-host luncheon and examination in the afternoon.

Officers for the club are: president, Mrs. C. O. Miller, vice-president, Miss Esther Davis, secretary, Mrs. Victor Hansen, treasurer, Mrs. A. J. McPherson.

The **PARADISE GREEN SAINTPAULIA CLUB OF CONNECTICUT** held its annual banquet on June 10, 1958. The following officers were installed for the ensuing year: president, Mrs. Robert Johnson, vice-president, Mrs. George Jankura, recording secretary, Miss Doris Steiner, treasurer, Mrs. Andrew Chickos, corresponding secretary, Mrs. Gordon Howes. They will take office at the first meeting in September.

The **DES MOINES AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB #1, DES MOINES, IOWA**, elected the following officers for the coming year: president, Mrs. Charles Bump, vice-president, Mrs. Paul Walters, secretary, Mrs. R. L. Keleher, corresponding secretary, Mrs. Adolph Johnson, treasurer, Mrs. Xen Lindel.

The **AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF THE MUSCLE SHOALS, ALABAMA AREA**, made its annual pilgrimage on April 22, 1958. The tour started at the home of Mrs. Almon T. Kenney in Florence, Alabama, and ended at the home of Mrs. J. K. Johnson Tuscumbia, Alabama. Individual members carried violets to the five homes that were visited. At the completion of the tour, a covered dish luncheon was served in historical Spring Park, Tuscumbia, Alabama.

The regular meeting of the **SALINE SAINTPAULIA CLUB, MARSHALL, MISSOURI**, was held on March 21, 1958, at the suburban home of Mrs. R. C. French. The highlight of the meeting was the annual spring tea. The tea table was beautifully decorated with a centerpiece of eight African violets of a medium blue, arranged on and around an inverted crystal cake stand, flanked on either side by tall white tapers in branched crystal candleholders. Mrs. J. O. Askinhurst presided at the silver service and Mrs. John Gorrell served the cake. Hostesses for the day with Mrs. French were Mrs. F. C. Green, Mrs. Ogle Gebhardt, and Mrs. Albert Deis. The finale of the afternoon was a parade of Easter hats, with each member modeling a hat that she had fashioned.

The club meets the third Friday of each month and the following are the officers for the year: president, Mrs. J. O. Askinhurst, vice-president, Mrs. John Gorrell, secretary, Mrs. Ottie Woodsmall, treasurer, Mrs. Fred Eikerman.

The program and activities committees have planned the following programs: color slides on arrangements, violet show and judging school, hobbies, picnic and potting party, book review with a guest speaker, and Chinese auction and leaf project. Each member is given a leaf of different varieties to grow, with a sale of all the extra plants to be held at the end of the year. The annual Christmas dinner with the exchange of gifts makes a very interesting program to look forward to through the year.

At the April meeting of the **UNCLE SAM AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF TROY, NEW YORK**, the following officers were elected for the coming year: president, Mrs. Frank Bell, vice-president, Mrs. Arthur Young, secretary, Mrs. Bernard Showalter, treasurer, Mrs. Howard Retallick.



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The UNION COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC., NEW JERSEY, ended a very successful year with a delicious smorgasbord, election, and installation of officers at the May meeting.

Several little shows were presented during the year, climaxed by the big show "Command Performance", held on April 18th and 19th at the Masonic Temple in Westfield, New Jersey.

Blooming plants wrapped as gifts were exchanged at Christmas. Members brought in plants for distribution at the Children's Country Home. The members also made a \$100 contribution to the Home, in the form of a lovely money tree made up of 100 one dollar bills. Mr. Maas of Hilton Dalhia Farm presented each member with a blooming plant at the Christmas smorgasbord.

Mrs. E. R. Klotz, retiring president, was presented an African violet pin, having served for two years.

Officers elected for the next term are: president, Mrs. Clarence Howard, 1st vice-president, Mrs. Hugh K. Dunn, 2nd vice-president, Mrs. Glenn B. Hudson, secretary, Mrs. Kenneth Molter, treasurer, Mrs. H. E. Halverson.

The NORTH SHORE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK, was organized in June, 1957. The first public meeting was held September 19, 1957, with nine charter members and several visitors. A charter and by-laws were presented and accepted. At the October, 1957, meeting each member was given a leaf of Holly for rooting, and a prize will be presented in September, 1958, for the best grown plant. In November, 1957, and March, 1958, members contributed many plants to be given as Thanksgiving and Easter gifts to elderly residents of St. Rose's Home, Farmingdale, and of the Blue Spruce Nursing Home, Huntington Station.

We have had two guest speakers from the Long Island African Violet Society. Mr. Robert Reed spoke on "Soil Preparation" in October, 1957, and "Violets from Rooted Leaf to Blooming Plants" in April, 1958. George Gillen spoke on "Rooting and Potting Plants" in February, 1958.

The group now consists of thirty members and four associate members. Officers for the coming year are: president, Mrs. LeRoy VanHouten, vice-president, Mrs. Martin Strebel, recording secretary, Mrs. Otto Schleichart, corresponding secretary, Mrs. Russell VanHouten, treasurer, Mr. Bernard Sheldon.

The BAY MINETTE AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, ALABAMA, met at the home of Mrs. A. K. Easley on March 13, 1958, with Mrs. H. O. West as co-hostess. The following officers were installed: president, Mrs. Edith Mott, vice-president, Mrs. Kate Owens, secretary, Mrs. Ada Belle Mashburn, treasurer, Mrs. Madeline Bryars.

This is the second year the club has been organized and has twenty members. Meetings are held in the evenings at the homes of the members. Special features during the year were colored slides, a picnic, a Christmas dinner, and a leaf and cutting exchange.

The AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF GREATER PITTSBURGH held its annual luncheon at the Royal York on Bigelow Boulevard.

Following the luncheon and a short program, Mrs. Paul W. Hugus installed the officers for the coming year: president, Miss Iva May Anderson, 1st vice-president, Mrs. Rene Edmundson, 2nd vice-president, Mrs. Harold Meinhardt, recording secretary, Mrs. W. Raymond Jones, corresponding secretary, Mrs. Mary C. Fleming, treasurer, Mrs. Allen S. Haslett, financial secretary, Mrs. Richard A. Rowan.

LIFETIME WHITE PLASTIC MARKERS

LIFETIME PLASTIC MARKERS are ideal for the grower or dealer who wants easy to mark, permanent, easy to read identification of plants, cuttings or seedlings. Also used for naming and pricing plants on display for sale or in shows.

Write on LIFETIME PLASTIC MARKERS with ordinary soft or medium lead pencil. May be used indoors or outside. They may be cleaned with household cleanser and reused repeatedly. Will not rot or disintegrate.

Style A is used for African violets and other house plants in greenhouse or home.

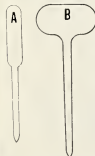
Label is $\frac{1}{2}$ x 2", total length $4\frac{1}{2}$ ".

Postpaid prices: 75 for \$1.00, 100 for \$1.25, 500 for \$5.50.

Style B is ideal for plants on display for sale or in shows. The large 2" x 1" label is easily read.

Adjust for correct angle by dipping in boiling water and bending.

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Also ready "Pinkiscia", the pretty pink Episcia with chocolate green foliage . . . only \$2.00 ppd.

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African Violet

MAGAZINE

DECEMBER 1958

VOLUME 10 NUMBER 2





BRIGITTE — Pictured! Revealing grown luscious flesh pink flowers.

LYNDON LYON

DOLGEVILLE, N. Y.

PHONE 3591

59

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Speckles-Splashes

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PARROT FEATHER — A dbl. pink with brilliant colors and frills like a tropical bird. R. C. \$1.00

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SHIPPING

This offer closes February 28. Minimum order is \$5.00 plus \$1.00 extra for postage, packing and Special Delivery. This offer is for rooted cuttings only. They will be shipped in the order received as soon as weather permits. Shipping date April 15th to November 1st.

NOTICE

We increase the size of the clumps of rooted cuttings on orders over \$10.00.

Merry Christmas, and a Happy, Prosperous New Year

NAOMI'S HYBRIDS

NAOMI'S HYBRIDS

THE TOP 1958 CONVENTION WINNERS

Our exhibit, of the first 11 hybrids in this list, was awarded the Horticulture Blue Rosette. Best Seedling Blue Rosette was awarded to AFTERGLOW.

AFTERGLOW: Brilliant red-pink dbl. on beautiful girl foliage	\$1.25
BLUE CREPE: Crinkly, fringed, dark blue dbl. Wavy foliage75
CAMEO: Frilly, unusual tu-tone pure pink single on dark foliage75
FAIR LADY: Light pink dbl. on pointed girl foliage. Extra heavy bloomer	1.00
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PINK DRIFT: Very bright pink dbl. But produces few babies75
REMEMBRANCE: Dbl. medium pink on girl foliage. Extra heavy bloomer.	1.00
SNO BIRD: PURE white single on dark scooped foliage. Flowers never turn brown, and seldom fall off. Always a show plant.	1.00
SWEETEST: Cupped, light pink, single on dainty girl foliage. Very nice.....	.75

OUR FIRST 1959 RELEASES

KISS OF FIRE: (Seedling #6340 named and described by Joe Schulz.) A full dbl. hot pink on vibrant round girl foliage	1.50
DORETTA: Full dbl. red tipped, deep orchid on small glossy foliage	1.00
ICE CAP: Heavily ruffled platinum white dbl. on light wavy foliage	1.00
PURPLE TOP: True lavender topped with full dbl. purple crest. Dark foliage75
ZORRO: Fluffy full dbl. purple on dark foliage, very red underside and stems	1.00

WEST COAST BEAUTIES

P.T. STARDUST: White single with blue traces, fringed, usually a deep chartreuse edge. Light green wavy foliage75
P.T. WHIMSEY: Deep pink, dappled white, on dark foliage. Quite unusual75

This offering is for ROOTED CUTTINGS (clumps of baby plants) ONLY, and it closes February 15. Orders will be mailed in rotation as early as Spring weather permits. PLEASE NOTE: Order only from this ad. We regret that requests for lists cannot be answered.

Your \$10.00 choice \$ 9.00
 15.00 choice 13.50
Minimum order \$5.00. Under
\$7.50 add .75¢ for handling.

NAOMI'S AFRICAN VIOLETS

141 HOLLEY ST.

BROCKPORT, N. Y.

Many, many, thanks to all our past customers, and to BLACK MAGIC'S little Sir Plants-a-lot for his superb growing assistance. Our sincere good wishes for the Season's Blessings to each and all.

Marv and Naomi Weeks

African Violet Magazine



A Quarterly Publication

C O N T E N T S

Vol. 12 December 1958 No. 2

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FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Friends:

Beginning with the new year several changes in the staff personnel of the magazine are planned. So to those of you who have given so generously of your time and talent in serving the Society through your work for the magazine — our grateful thanks for all you have done. Your contributions are sincerely appreciated.

Several pictures of beautiful arrangements were withheld from the Show News & Views column this time. They were held over for a special feature on arrangements for the March issue. The

donors to the Boyce Edens Memorial Fund will also be listed in the March issue.

With best wishes to you each and everyone for a Merry, Merry Christmas and a Healthful, Happy New Year!

Most sincerely,

Anna Wright



Just naturally grow together

It's a fact — African violets grow bigger and healthier, have more blooms when fed the Stim-U-Plant way. For prize winners, start with our high-organic soil mixes, feed with the rich, balanced Stim-U-Plant solution and keep pests away with Sel-Kaps or African Violet Spray. New Growers' Sizes available postpaid: 1 lb. can, \$1.30; 5 lb. can, \$4.95. Enclose check or money order, please.

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African Violet Soil, Peat Humus, Planter Mix, Special mixtures to assure maximum growth and blooming.

Stim-U-Plant products are available in Variety, Hardware, and Garden stores, Floral shops, Supermarkets.

PLANTING BY THE MOON

Ada Muir, Port Coquitlam, B. C., Canada

The African violet is one of our most sensitive plants and if we can co-operate in our care of it, so much the better for the plant and for us. There are twelve signs of the zodiac and through experiment and observation carried on for many ages, six of these are said to be fruitful and six are barren.

For our best success in caring for our African violets we shall choose those dates when the Sun and Moon are in fruitful signs. That means that we shall sow our seeds, divide our plants, take leaf cuttings and attend to watering when the Moon is in a fruitful sign and if the Sun also is in a fruitful sign, so much the better.

The Sun is passing through a fruitful sign during the year 1959, from January 1st to 20th; February 20th to March 21st; April 21st to May 21st; June 23rd to July 23rd; August 24th to Sept. 23rd; October 25th to November 23rd; and December 23rd to 31st.

Our best dates will be those following the New Moon until the Full Moon and when the Moon is in a fruitful sign and these are:

January 9th, 13th, 14th, 18th and 19th.
February 20th.

March 9th, 10th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 18th, 19th and 20th.

May 12th, 13th, 17th, 18th, 21st and 22nd.

July 6th, 10th, 11th, 15th, 16th, 19th and 20th.

September 3rd, 4th, 7th, 8th, 11th, 12th and 16th.

November 1st, 2nd, 5th, 6th, 9th, 10th and 14th.

December 30th and 31st.

Other dates, when the Moon is in a fruitful sign are:

February 9th, 10th, 14th, 15th and 19th.

March 23rd and 24th.

April 10th, 11th, 15th, 16th, 19th and 20th.

June 8th, 9th, 13th, 14th, 17th and 18th.

August 7th, 8th, 11th, 12th, 15th, 16th, 19th and 20th.

October 4th, 5th, 9th, 10th, 13th and 14th.

December 2nd, 3rd, 6th, 7th, 8th, 11th and 12th. end

ANNOUNCING Another SCIENTIFIC Achievement

A stimulator for treating African violet leaves that not only ENHANCES ROOTS but greatly PROMOTES the number of new PLANTS per leaf.

Propagate your new varieties faster. Make it pay to send money for new leaves. This product is the FIRST of its kind on the market. It contains ADENINE, the miracle bud promoting factor. You saw it first suggested in African Violet Magazine 8:48-54, 1955. Then you saw it reported in the Proceedings of the American Society for Horticulture Science in 1957. Now it is at last marketed in a simple, easy to use form.

WHAT DOES IT DO? It increases the number of primordia or tiny differentiation sites in the callus of the started leaf that develop into new plants. This means that you will get more plants from one leaf. Increases in number of plants of 50% to 75% are not uncommon.

Our product is sold in tablet form. Each tablet dissolved in one cup of water will treat 30 to 40 leaves. Complete directions are included.

Price: 12 tablets, \$1.98. Residents of Ohio please include 6¢ sales tax.

Dealer inquiries invited.

T. P. LABORATORIES

BOX 8425

CLEVELAND 34, OHIO

AFRICAN VIOLETS IN THE HOLIDAY MOOD

Anne Tinari, Bethayres, Pennsylvania

In preparing your many Christmas arrangements, decorations and gifts, have you ever considered your African violets a real asset? They are so versatile, and bring much pleasure when given as gifts.

Would you like to make some beautiful violet arrangements to send your friends into ecstasy? Before we get into the rewarding part of putting such exotic beauties together, let us for a moment consider the mechanics of having a violet arrangement that will hold up during your holiday festivities, and longer if necessary.

Any favorite dish that is deep enough to hold a two and one-quarter inch plastic pot will suffice. Look among your china and silver pieces that you never quite knew what to do with, or for an odd shaped dish that never did hold any real purpose. Now is the time to put them to good use.

In the bottom of your container place a layer of coarse vermiculite, and moisten slightly to act as a base or holder. Now take your potted plant and firm into the vermiculite. Add more vermiculite if the container is slightly deep and if the plant looks lost, or remove amount needed to bring the pot just flush with the rim of the container. Tilt artistically to accomplish the right effect.

Your first question will be, how to care for an arrangement of this type once it is put together. This is simple. Take a long spouted watering can and water the plants individually from the top, allowing any excess water to drain into the coarse vermiculite. This will keep it sufficiently moist to stay fresh looking. It would not hurt to take the arrangement to your kitchen sink and give it a warm, gentle spraying, taking care to keep it out of the sun and bright light until it is thoroughly dry. This will keep the foliage looking fresh, firm and dust free. To keep plants blossoming, it is beneficial to display them near a lamp at night. This provides additional light and is a lovely way to accentuate them.

Have you ever placed a blooming plant in a milk glass container? This combination is striking.

A favorite arrangement is one I make in a lovely shell pink milk glass compote that is about six and one-half inches high, nine inches across and about three inches deep, which is just about perfect for a table, and can easily be carried to a lamp table in the evening to show off its beauty.

I will tell you how to arrange this, one step at a time. First, I have placed one-half inch of coarse vermiculite in the bottom of the compote and moistened it slightly to keep it in place, taking care not to saturate it too much so that it is soggy. Now I am ready to choose the plants. For the very center and focal point, America is perfect with its upright growth and large medium blue blossoms. I am also very partial to pinks as they seem to compliment all other colors, thus the choice of Pink Geneva with its profuse blossoms of bright pink edged in white. This plant is firmed into the vermiculite directly in front of the center plant, tilted to the side slightly to disguise pot and show the entire plant. Next to this I have placed dark, double Cydonia as these doubles hold up so well and look fresh so long. White Tango is placed next. Red Glow is magnificent next to the double white, and under the light it really glows. For the finishing touch, we add Monaco Pink and Fringed Pom Pom with its fringed double white flower edged in lavender and chartreuse. All of these plants have flexible foliage, so they look well together.

A lovely Christmas decoration is a Madonna flower vase with a back opening to hold a pot, combined with a few sprigs of holly. This is very attractive and in the Christmas spirit. The same vase could be used for a center decoration with plants grouped around it on a red or green Christmas cloth, with pine boughs and ribbon to make it as simple or as elaborate as desired. A large white Santa Claus sleigh with reindeer is one of my favorite mantel arrangements. The sleigh is filled with a lovely plant, and Christmas greens used for the background.

Remember, these ideas make the loveliest gifts, and, too, living gifts are most appreciated. A lovely African violet in a pot can be arranged in many ways to suit the season or spirit for which it is intended. end

ELFIN PLANT LABELS

Plants Named Permanently. Vinylite Markers on last plants. $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 3" — 18 for 25¢, 100 for 55¢.
African Violet Labels $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 2" — 100 for 50¢ Mailed.
Make money — Clubs, Individuals.

E. F. SPENCER COMPANY

1937 Delta St. Los Angeles 26, Calif.

AFRICAN VIOLET VARIETY LIST

for 1959

by Carolyn K. Rector

Will be published only if we receive enough advance orders by January 1st to make it worth while. This will be a supplement to the 1957 edition. The price \$1.00. Send in your order NOW. Enclose STAMPED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPE for reply. Send no money until notified.

WHITLOW'S BOOKSTORE

2236 Pacific Ave. San Pedro, Calif.



Poets Corner

THE NIGHT BEFORE . . .

(parody on "The Night Before Christmas")

T'was the night before Christmas
And all through the club,
All the members were crying,
Ooh such a hubbub!
The violets all, had been fixed for the show
But now they were missing, three hundred or so!

"I just can't understand it,"
The President sobbed.
"I know our flowers well and
I know we've been robbed! !
They wouldn't just walk out,
there's cause for alarm.
I pray that who stole them
will do them no harm!"

So a great search was started
The whole town they'd scour.
They were told when they parted
To report in an hour.
A fine Christmas Eve this was,
and they were right.
But they'd catch the culprit
if it took all night!

But meanwhile the violets
Were not far away
They too were assembled
And having their say.
Their leader, an Admiral,
named Sailor Girl
Said, "This Christmas Eve,
we'll have a gay whirl!

I hope, fellow violets,
You're glad that you left.
Though our owners may fret some
And feel they're bereft,
We'll just stay away long enough for a spree.
There's so many Christmas sights for us to see!

We will travel in small groups
So we won't be seen.
First we'll see Xmas Card Lane

Which I've heard is keen!
We'll see all the houses with gay lighted trees.
WE violets too are entitled to spees.

"Don't we spend all our hours
Giving joy and delight?
We too need our pleasures, and
Tonight is the night!"
They danced on their way
then as quick as a wink,
The purples, the white, and the delicate pink.

Oh, the gay sights that they saw
And the fun that they had
Delighted each violet
And made it feel glad.
Then softly each entered the quiet club house
And perched there demurely as still as a mouse.
The members walked in and they
Gave a loud cry.
"Our violets are here looking
Healthy and spry!"
The flowers said, "Sorry, we gave you a fright —
"But Merry Christmas to All
and to All a Good Night! !"

Dorothy Teller Lund

WINTER-TIME GARDEN

My Winter-time Garden gives me quite a thrill;
It covers little space, . . . in fact one window sill;
A Petunia, tall and stately, reaches for the sun;
A Parsley Planter is handy when the stew is done;
A carrot top with fern-like leaves is sprouting up;
I make-believe each snowflake is a golden Butter-
cup!

Though my Window Garden changes, I want you
to know, —

My African violets always steal the show!

Clara Smith Reber
Conneaut Lake, Pa.

"DEAR SIR OR MADAM"

It really only "irks" me
When I receive my mail
To find when I've signed "M. C."
They think that I'm a "frail."
It happens most with dealers
Of whom I've begged a list,
Who, for some untold reason
Think I must be "Madam'd or Miss'd."
Now I'm a pretty rugged "bucko,"
And A. V.'s are sweet and nice;
But a man can like them also
(You've really found my vice).
So, please, friends, in the future
Don't write me like a sister.
For goodness sake, please understand
A fan (A. V.) can be a "Mr."

M. C. Nichols
Holden, Mass.

President's Message



Mr. Harvey

I went up to Knoxville a few days ago and visited with our folks in the new Society office there. Alma and I are very proud of this office into which the Society moved on August 1st. It is located on the second floor of the Plaza Building at 325 Clinch Avenue S.W., just across from the uptown Post Office. We both extend a very cordial and imperative invitation to all Society members passing through Knoxville to stop off and visit us in this office.

When you go to this office you will meet the Magazine's 100% feminine staff of four people, Margaret L. Travis, Alice Harless, Lela Miller and Barbara Hiland. Margaret L. Travis is the senior of these four in point of services having been with the Society ever since Vol. 2 No 1 of the magazine came out — and that's a long time ago. These people take care of the enormous mass of details and office routine that is necessary for the smooth running of the Society's operation. With-

out their quiet and efficient efforts, it would be nearly impossible for the Society to continue to function.

I spent a wholly enjoyable hour and a half checking into one of the many operations which they take care of. The particular one that I followed was the routine required to keep the Society's membership list (which is also the Magazine mailing list) up to date.

In taking care of this particular operation, the girls in Knoxville have contact with each member of the Society three times a year. First they send the member a notice saying that her membership is about to expire. Later they receive (let's hope) the communication renewing her membership and finally as the third contact, they send her her new membership card.

Assuming there are 15,000 members, which is a good round figure and not too far from the actual count, this means that they make 45,000 contacts in the course of a year. They work about 250 days during the year (50 weeks at five days a week), which figures out that on an average day they handle 180 contacts. But the girls tell me that there is no such thing as an average day. Some days there are as few as fifty of these contacts to handle and some days there may be as high as four hundred. Remember that this is only one of numerous operations which our staff has to take care of in their daily routine work.

Everyone of these contacts with a member is a chance to make a mistake, and making mistakes in our contact with the Society members is about the easiest way to make those members mad that I know of. So in this operation alone these girls have 45,000 chances a year to make Society members angry at them. In the big majority of cases an error would result in a member not receiving her magazine. While there are ways of making a person angry that are even more sure-fire than not sending her the magazine for which she has paid her good money, that method stands pretty high on the list.

I asked how many errors the girls made. The reply given with a rather wan smile was "very few." This appears to be correct since the complaints come in so seldom that each one received is a major event that upsets the entire office and is the subject of general consternation and discussion until it is corrected.

I went from this office in a subdued frame of mind. I wonder how many mistakes you and I would make in the course of a year, if during that year we had 45,000 wide-open opportunities to make them.

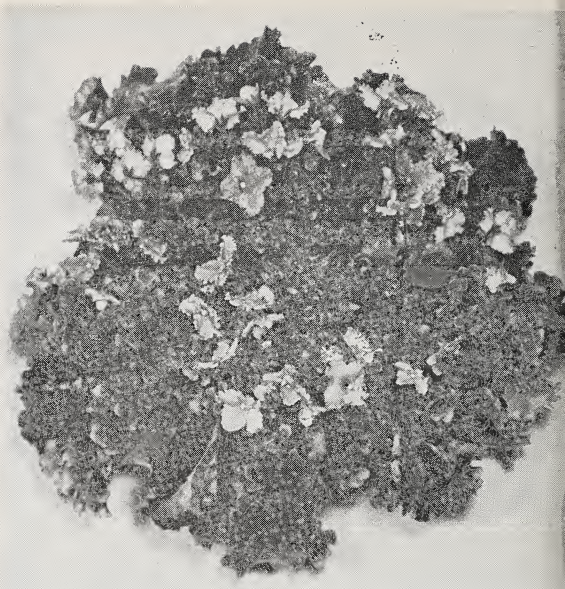
When I got home I looked up the duties of the Membership Secretary in our By-laws. I decided her duties sounded easy if you read them fast enough, but that it took all four of our girls to be one good Membership Secretary. So each one of them is actually about one-fourth of a membership secretary.

Most sincerely,

H. G. Harvey

T-V VALLINPINK —

Has dark green Holly type leaves that are most decorative. The single blossom is a lush deep pink with an attractive ruffled or fringed edging in pink and chartreuse. Most of the ruffle is on the pink part of the blossom — the edge is chartreuse. The frothy edge of the blooms may be quite pronounced. Pictured is Mrs. Robert Tuggey's Vallin-pink, a blue ribbon winner at the 1958 National Show.



Originators Tell How T-V, Gold Lace

Caravan Sultan — Outstanding double ruffled foliage, very pliable, deep green with red markings on reverse. Purple blossoms, frilled edging.





WHITE GOLD LACE —

Of extra heavy substance the crinkled edging of White Gold Lace blossoms is chartreuse gold. The two top petals are not as large as the bottom three and they tip forward; this is a characteristic of the Gold Lace Series. Now and then blue tints may also appear in the center of blooms. The foliage is medium green in color with sharply serrated edges. Plants may grow to large size.

and Caravan Series Were Developed

THE CARAVAN SERIES

Ann Buynak, Cleveland, Ohio

There have been many poems and verses written about the beloved Saintpaulia. We who have had the courage to try to achieve what at times seemed to be the impossible, have faced many disappointments. We all dream of what we would like in our African violets; occasionally our dreams do materialize. Some of us like certain types of foliage, others like large blossoms — then there is always the desire for new colors.

While working among my plants, watering, feeding and straightening the plants on the benches, I admired my display plant of Ruffled Queen. I thought how lovely it would be to obtain that particular blossom on a more pliable foliage. It was also desirable to obtain a plant that would grow a bit faster, since it was well-known that the Supreme varieties propagate more slowly than the standard varieties. I wondered what type of plant I should use for the other parent. Should it be a straight leaf or a girl leaf; should it be a single or double blossom? I noticed Gorgeous Blue Wonder — I thought about it — it was a good producer and heavy

bloomer, with its attractive medium green foliage and not too formal. I made the decision to pollenize Ruffled Queen and Blue Wonder. It was several months before the pod was fully developed and ripened. The seeds were planted and again there were months of waiting for the hundreds of little seedlings to grow to maturity and flower.

Little did I realize that Ruffled Queen would cross me up . . . a wonder had occurred. The beautiful ruffle of the Queen's blossom had developed in the foliage. Some of the leaves have a ruffling an inch wide. There were blue, purple, mottled white, and blue colors, and many of the blossoms had the tendency also to frill. Some were as aristocratic as Ruffled Queen with its heavy scalloped Supreme type foliage and others had flexible leaves and were as demure as Gorgeous Blue Wonder. After a period of waiting to make sure that they would propagate I was elated with the results.

Thus, the Caravan Series was born. A large number have already been introduced. A mutation numbered P.H.4 was shown at the last National Convention in Rochester. Of particular interest is the pink color in its leaves. Many varieties of the Caravan Series are yet to be displayed and introduced. Several have different colored foliage — and are out of this world!

T-V VALLINPINK —

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WHITE GOLD LACE —

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Originators Tell How T-V, Gold Lace and Caravan Series Were Developed

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THE T-V STORY

Margaret Vallin, Beaumont, Texas

My venture into the field of hybridizing started with the purchase of a dollar package of mixed African violet seed in 1951. The seeds were sown on a bed of damp vermiculite with coarse charcoal for drainage. Germination was good and soon there were plants with all kinds of foliage — plain, standard, girl foliage, duPont, and last but not least there was a plant with beautiful glossy, wavy foliage.

From the beginning, even without blooms, this little plant was a standout. Although I did not realize it, I was watching the plant that was to become the grandparent of many beautiful fringed seedlings. It was Texas Fringe.

Watching Texas Fringe develop into a beautiful symmetrical show plant made me long for more plants with similar foliage and a variety of colors. In November 1952, I selected a beautiful new variety, the blue and white variegated double called Dark Beauty for the pollen parent and Texas Fringe for the seed bearing plant. This cross would give me several colors but not pink. It did produce such plants as T-V Cut Velvet, T-V Stagline and T-V Rose Prom.

More than anything I wanted a really pretty fringed pink. To get this recessive color I used my old standby Texas Fringe and a deep pink variety, Pink Cheer. Other crosses were made but by far the most successful were Texas Fringe x Dark Beauty, and Texas Fringe x Pink Cheer.

From Texas Fringe x Pink Cheer, all the plants had shades of blue or purple blossoms. There were many plain foliage plants and others

with beautifully waved, dark green, red-backed foliage. I selected the best of these, T-V Swirling Petticoats, to be the seed bearing parent of the fringed pinks I was determined to get. For the pink parent I selected a plant with large, round pink blooms and more compact foliage than Pink Cheer, the pink parent in my first cross.

There was another long wait for the pod to ripen. In our area it takes from four to five months. Eventually I had young seedlings to watch come into bloom. From this cross the plain foliage was dominant, the colors were about fifty-fifty, half blue and half pink.

At last I had my fringed pinks and they were good! By selecting a larger pink blossom for this cross I had improved the size and shape of my fringed pink bloom. Such plants as T-V Vallinpink, Clarissa Harris, Dresden Dream, Pink Petticoats and Pink Fog resulted from this cross.

I had planned to ignore the plain foliage plants in this cross, but among the first to bloom was a jewel of a plant with a deeper pink eye and a deeper pink edge outlining the blossom. In my tiny greenhouse I saw every plant bloom, and although there were several pink-edged plants, the best one was the one that bloomed first.

In hybridization one cross suggests another. Different combinations may be made, with always the thought in mind to produce lovelier plants, brighter colors and larger, longer lasting blossoms.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GOLD LACE SERIES

Dan Haga, Charlotte, North Carolina

Just about everyone in the African violet world dreams of the day when there will be a yellow violet, and I suppose that each hybridizer hopes that he will be the lucky one to produce it. Like everything else, it has to have a beginning somewhere. I feel that the violets with the yellow or chartreuse edge are that beginning.

Our "Gold Lace Series" has come a long way since its beginning. It started from some of the old varieties, Lacy Girl, Georgia Peach and Edith Cavelle, plus an outstanding seedling that we call Lavender Dip, whose origin is "top secret." It has a hooded flower with a small white eye. This still comes out from time to time in our seedlings.

The first seedlings produced did not have any signs of chartreuse. After several attempts, chartreuse did show up in some of the seedlings. From there we were able to carry the small gold edge into a larger gold band. We are still hoping that something even more interesting will come of this series. We have it in most all colors, but so far we have not been able to get a double.

Perhaps by Convention time next year we will have something new in the "Gold Lace Series." We are continuing to work toward the yellow. I am sure that before long the yellow violet will move from the future into the present.

end



FLOWER PICTURES

Essie Monica Mapplethorpe,
Boston, Lincolnshire, England

Do you ever feel sad when your favorite violet stops blooming or dies? I have, hence my violet pictures.

I never pick a flower off a plant, I wait until it starts to come off or drops off, then I leave it half a day to make sure it is perfectly dry.

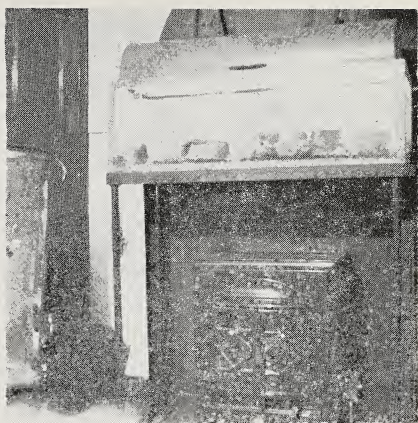
I keep several boxes of dried silver sand all ready. I make a slight hollow in the sand and place the violet blossom in this. I do NOT pour the sand over it, if I did I might just as well press it in a book. No, I build up the sand on the outside of the petals first, thereby keeping it in its original state, then I fill in the center and so on until they are all nice and cozy; then, on goes the lid, and they are put in a temperature of seventy-six degrees Fahrenheit.

I look at them after five days; usually that is long enough if you want to retain their colour.

When firm, I let the sand dribble out of the box gradually, and then carefully take out the flowers.

The next thing is the frame. I make mine of balsa wood. For violets, the frame should be about a quarter of an inch deep, for anemones about an inch deep, and for passion flowers about two inches deep. It all depends on the size of the flowers.

I always cut the glass first in whatever shape and size I want it, then I cut a piece of white blotting paper and a piece of cardboard for backing, using the glass as a guide for cutting. I then cut the wood and glue it to the glass, and



This is the stove in my kitchen which is on day and night, keeping a temperature of seventy-six degrees Fahrenheit, and the reason I grow tropical plants. As I am out all day, an open fire is not safe.

The fish tank is full of seedlings, with fluorescent lighting in the hood.

Flowers are dried in sand, and the boxes are on the floor at the side of the stove.

while that is drying I fix the hanger ring into the back of the cardboard about two inches from the top, then Balsa glue the blotting paper to the cardboard backing.

The next step is arranging the flowers onto the blotting paper with a little dab of glue. I add golden rod, heathers or mimosa, all dried in the same way.

I find that ferns and leaves lose their colour after about twelve months and become a sickly brown, but after two years violets, anemones, golden rod, etc., are still as fresh as ever and have not lost their colour.

When all the flowers, etc., are arranged, glue the glass frame onto the blotting paper and finally bind the edges together with "passe partout," then hang up away from direct sunlight, and sit back and enjoy your flower picture.

I now have over thirty pictures, all shapes and sizes, and a large fire screen of violets and anemones. Now I am about to make a tray to match.

I couldn't bear to throw away a single violet blossom; every one without a blemish goes into sand.

During the summer I dry several boxes of golden rod and heathers, and in the winter I dry mimosa, so I always have plenty of material to work with. end



Mrs. Knight's window. The large plants on the lower shelf are provided extra humidity by being placed on inverted four inch plastic pots set in five inch water filled plastic saucers.

"THE BLESSING IN DISGUISE"

Jane P. Knight, Lynn, Massachusetts

My admiration and affection for African violets was not a case of love at first sight!

A friend, coming for luncheon one day some years ago, brought me a small, unnamed African violet plant which she had raised from a leaf. It made a bit of green on my pantry window shelf, and no particular attention was given to it. One day, I found the small clay pot completely dried out, and the plant "flat on its face." Feeling sorry for the poor thing, I gave it a good watering, and wished it well. A few hours later, I was amazed to find the leaves again green and crisp. The perseverance of the plant amused me, so I gave it better care, and was rewarded a few months later by a blossom — single purple with a yellow center. That first violet of mine grew and blossomed steadily for two years, never being without blooms.

In the meantime, my sister and I had taken a trip to Rangeley Lakes in Maine to see the colored fall foliage. We stopped overnight in Farmington, Maine, and next morning, after breakfast, sauntered across the street to a 25¢-\$1.00 store. As we entered, directly ahead of us was a counter filled with blooming plants. They were African violets! We discovered single and double blossoms, of both light and dark colors, and each plant had a label with a fascinating name — Delight, Pink Cheer, Orchid Sunset and Purity. Needless to say, when we left, there

weren't many violets left on that counter. My sister and I had yielded to temptation!

Northeast and east, in my opinion, are the best exposures for African violets. They provide maximum light with minimum sunshine, so that the plants can be placed close to the window without a curtain or shade of any kind. Having no room with this ideal location, I have found that violets thrive and blossom best for me in an upstairs room facing south and west. During the winter months no shade is provided; but by February 15th, a thin muslin or dacron curtain is put up at each window to protect the plants from the bright, spring sun. During the first week of May, the two large maple trees on the south side of the house are leaved out, and the plants get dappled light and sun. By this time, however, the sunshine from the west window is brilliant and hot, and more protection is needed. Here, an ordinary window shade has been utilized. I have removed the shade from the roller and substituted clear plastic, available by the yard. This was hemmed at the sides and bottom, and the wood strip reinserted. This shade is pulled down when the sun shines, but is rolled up on dull days to give the plants needed light.

The plants are arranged on three shelves, equally distant, in front of two adjoining windows. A hardware store supplied three metal standards, sixty inches high with holes that allow

the brackets to be adjusted to any height. These standards, which are available in various lengths, are screwed into the middle and sides of the window casing. Three glass shelves one-fourth inch thick, eight inches wide and seventy-two inches long, provide the support and space for two rows of violets to each shelf.

On the bottom shelf are six large specimens, and each plant stands on a four inch pot set upside down in a five inch plastic saucer. The saucer is kept filled with water to provide the humidity necessary for large blossoms.

The plants on the middle and top shelves, next to the window, are in plastic pots, and placed in glass custard cups, with a half-inch of broiler grits in the bottom. Water is kept in the cups just below the surface of the grits. These clear glass receptacles do not keep the light from the plants on the next lower shelf. Also, their use in place of colored dishes does not divert attention from the violets. Small aluminum foil serving dishes have been glued to the bottom of square or round water glasses to build up the outside row, and to allow light to reach the crowns of the plants. These containers also have grits with water just under the surface at all times.

In spring and fall, to admit fresh air so necessary in the growth of healthy violets, the west window is opened from the top during the day. In summer months, a constant supply of fresh air is allowed to come into the room both day and night, and the plants enjoy and thrive on the sea air that comes from the ocean three-quarters of a mile away. In freezing weather, a window is opened slightly in an adjoining room.

The violets are finger-tested for watering each day. A plant that does not need water one day, may need it badly the next. I have found by experience that plants in clay pots dry out faster and need watering oftener, than those in plastic pots. This is particularly true of young plants in 2¼" clay pots. I wondered why these violets did not grow but just stood still and "sulked." Later, when the plants were watered each day, they soon came to life and started to grow and bloom.

A growing plant that has developed droopy leaves, is allowed to dry out. Then, a cardboard collar is furnished for a few weeks to bring the leaves back into proper position.

Vermiculite, soil, labels, scissors, etc., are kept in the plant room, and are used when needed in the daily inspection of the violets. Old leaves, withered blossoms, and suckers are removed, and each plant is groomed for show purposes as soon as it is put into a 2¼" pot.

African violets are not difficult to grow and blossom, provided their few likes and dislikes are learned and adhered to — such as proper watering, light, and porous soil. In some instances, when a plant does not bloom, the well-meaning owner transfers it to a larger pot, whereas the African violet likes to be slightly



pot-bound before starting to put out blossom stems.

To most people, I believe, the African violet presents a challenge, and it is a most satisfying experience to see the first bloom on a plant which has been grown from a leaf, and cared for for many months. As Mr. H. G. Harvey, the new president of the African Violet Society of America, said in his speech at the Rochester Convention, "The more you put into your violets, the more you take out."

I have had endless enjoyment with African violets, and have made good friends through contact with this popular house plant. Certainly, that first small violet given to me as a gift, was a "blessing in disguise." end

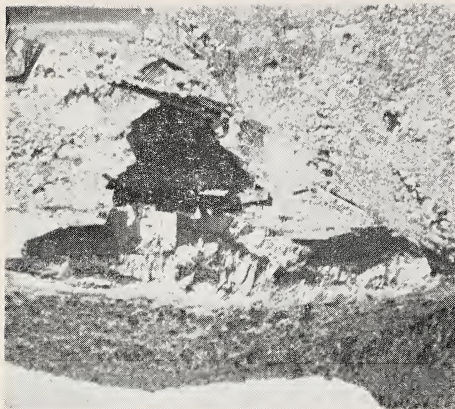
REROOTING VIOLET PLANTS

Gertrude Bush, Muncie, Kansas

Do you have a treasured African violet that has grown out on a long neck or stem? It is so unsightly, yet you just cannot bear to discard it since it was given to you by a dear friend or relative. Such a plant can be rejuvenated with very little effort or time involved.

Simply remove all the leaves up to two or three rows of fresh, healthy ones around the heart. Then cut away the stem and old root system, leaving about one-half inch of stem. Lay the plant aside to dry or heal for four or five hours, then plant it in a good rooting medium, firming the medium well around the one-half inch of stem. Keep moist at all times. A good root system should form in about four to six weeks.

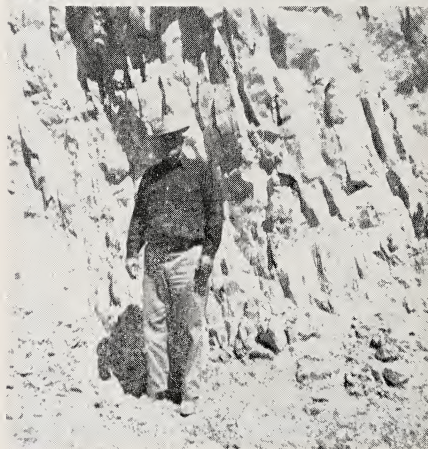
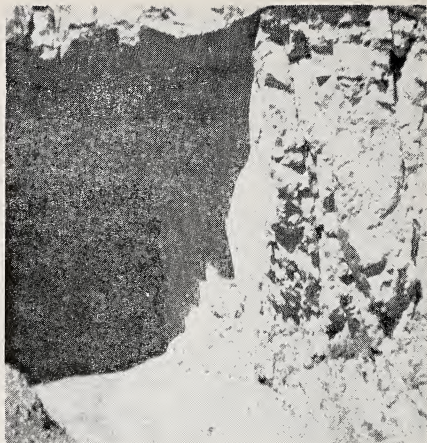
Pot up your newly rooted plant and you are well on the way to a fine specimen plant again. end



Above, Sponge-Rok deposit. In the summer Sponge-Rok is mined as an open pit operation, and during winter mining is carried on underground.

Above right, a close up of the entrance shaft.

Below right, an employee of the Sponge-Rok Company is pictured in the open pit beside the wall of rock.



Sponge-Rok

Up from the deepest recesses of the earth only to be returned to the earth again for the beneficial growth of plants, this is the story of Sponge-Rok, a volcanic and siliceous rock.

Sponge-Rok is mined in a fashion similar to our common ores. It is crushed, loaded on rail cars and shipped to the Sponge-Rok plant at Paramount, California. One of the paradoxes of this material is that it comes from one of our southwestern deserts where there is the minimum of plant life. In its raw form it would be just another rock to pick out of your good garden soil. The processing at the plant converts this rock into nature's storehouse of moisture and plant foods for the soil.

The rock is passed through modern furnaces that "pop" it. This popping expands the rock ten times to form pure white pellets of sponge-like appearance. Each pellet is filled with tiny holes which store air, food, and moisture for hungry and thirsty roots. The intense heat, from the manufacturing process, produces a completely sterile medium free of all harmful bacteria and fungi. It is light in weight, easy to handle, and good for plants that thrive in acid soils. It is exceptionally fine as an ingredient for African violet potting mixes.

Sponge-Rok lasts indefinitely in the soil and makes a permanent soil conditioner. It keeps hard-packed soils loose and friable. Earth, peat moss, leaf mold, charcoal and countless other materials can be mixed with Sponge-Rok to assist plants to grow faster and stronger. It is used in many commercially prepared plant mixtures, and used straight in the soil. It requires only one-third the usual amount of water, and yet you cannot overwater.

Sponge-Rok is used in various proportions with peat moss, leaf mold and charcoal by African violet growers. Mixtures using from fifty percent to twenty-five percent Sponge-Rok are recommended. Root development in a Sponge-Rok mixture is noticeably more profuse and results in better leaf and flower growth.

Sponge-Rok, in addition to being the only permanent soil conditioner, is used extensively

Continued on bottom next page

MY FIRST STEP IN AFRICAN VIOLETS

Hildegard Barghoorn, Aachen, Germany

A few years ago when Mrs. E. B. Barghoorn, now of New Haven, Connecticut, asked me if I knew African violets, I had never seen nor heard of them. Later, in 1952, when we met at Munich, we visited some gardeners' shops, but found only plants with dark blue blooms and yellow spots on the leaves. The African violets were potted with other plants in baskets, none were separate, and we did not buy any.

Some time later I received the first seed from the United States (from the Friendly Gardens). After my membership in the African Violet Society of America (due to the kindness of Mrs. Barghoorn), I received letters from many violet friends in the United States, and some of them sent me seeds. Herewith, once more, my thanks for them.

At first I had trouble finding the right soil for the plants. I baked it, I mixed it, I put it into a drying chamber, but the plants did not grow quickly. Then I tried a soil from the Netherlands named "Composana." I potted some plants in it, without any special treatment to the soil like baking, etc. After a short time the plants started to grow, to become stronger and nicer, and to get many new leaves and buds. Since then I pot all my plants in "Composana" and have very good success.

I have a lot of blooming plants: light blue, dark blue, double blue, light violet, and since last spring, a pink one too! A few rows of plants are on the window in my office, and many people admire them. I am very proud of them. I often give away young plants or leaves, and am told that the plants do nicely.

I am sure African violets need more care than just routine work, and I think the careful hand of a violet fan will bring success to anybody who loves these lovely plants. end

for top-dressing house planters and outside areas. The pure white pellets covering the soil around any potted plant dramatizes the full beauty of the plant. As a top-dressing or mulch in the garden, it preserves moisture in the soil, helps to discourage weeds and provides a most modern and unique setting for plants.

Commercial growers and garden hobbyists use Sponge-Rok straight or with peat moss for seed germination and starting cuttings. African violets root well in Sponge-Rok. It can be reused time and time again.

While there are other similar products on the market, only Sponge-Rok is processed exclusively for horticultural use. Each pellet is more standard in size, larger, and contains more air pockets for better air, water and plant food storage. end

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AFRICAN VIOLETS NEED HIGH FERTILITY

K. C. Berger, Dept. of Soils, University of Wisconsin

Whenever in doubt of what a plant needs in the line of soil acidity or fertility, it is best always to study the native conditions under which it grows. Soil fertility research people often do this with many field and garden plants but it applies for flowers as well. A number of years ago I became interested in African violets as a hobby and because my field is soil fertility research, particularly those of trace elements I soon was not satisfied with the results I was getting growing violets at home. Because of this, I undertook some research projects on soil fertility and acidity conditions for best growth of African violets and out of this work came a brand new idea in potting soils. The results can be seen in the pictures and will be described in the article.

A study of the way African violets grow wild shows that many of the soils they grow in are quite strongly acid. Of course, the first thing I found out in working with African violets is that most all of our water that we use in our homes is alkaline because of coming from limestones or limy sandstones. Nearly any soil watered with this will become alkaline in a short time. Changing a highly acid soil to an alkaline soil causes a lot of changes. For example, manganese content of the soil is reduced in availability as are some of the other trace elements when the soil becomes highly alkaline, the available phosphorus content is reduced and it is more difficult for the plant to get potassium.

Figure 1. Photos courtesy Nitragin Company, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

There is also a difference in the amount of lime-water it takes to make various soils alkaline. This is called the buffering capacity of a soil. Sands have little or no buffering capacity, silt and clay loams have more, and peat soils have the highest buffering capacity of any. This means they tend to resist change.

For our experiment on fertility we decided that because in nature African violets grew on acid soils, we would start with an acid soil, and so obtained samples of various peat soils. It was soon found that the most acid soil gave the best results. However, this peat had a pH of 5.0 and while it was strongly acid there are many that are much more acid than this. Simply growing the African violets in the peat gave us little or no results, and the experiments were conducted adding various kinds and quantities of trace elements.

In fertilizing field crops, we normally use only a few hundred pounds of fertilizer per acre and in cases of trace elements the quantities ranged from two or three pounds up to around fifty pounds per acre. Working with the peat soil where the plant roots are restricted in pots it was soon found that unbelievable quantities of fertilizers and trace elements could be added only to the benefit of the plants. In figure 1 the plant on the left received one of the nationally known African violet potting soils while that on the right received the new formula finally devised





Figure 2.

after much experimentation. The plant on the left shows severe nitrogen deficiency as shown by the light-colored lower leaves. A lack of nitrogen causes these leaves to become a light greenish yellow color and eventually will turn entirely yellow and die. The plant is unthrifty and stunted. Other African violet potting soils show severe phosphorus deficiency. This is shown by very dark colored upper leaves which are extremely small and by an almost complete absence of blossoming.

Potassium deficiency in African violets causes the lower leaves to become bronze and the plant to be stunted. The upper leaves remain a normal green color. The final results of the experimentation with African violets is shown in figure 2. This African violet is a year old and has been growing in the same pot in the same soil without transplanting from the time it was a small plant with only six leaves and being about two inches across. This potting soil is now produced by the Nitragin Company of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and sold under the name of Nitro-Gro. In my opinion, it is the finest African violet potting soil on the market. The soil is acid and tends to resist change in pH when watered with alkaline waters.

If at all possible, it is best to water African violets with rainwater so as to prevent the alkalinity. In all the experiments that I conducted, the plants always grew better when the soils were slightly to strongly acid. The fertility of African violets is high. Let me caution you, however, it is easy to add too much fertilizer to a pot. Furthermore, the fertilizer must be balanced. Many peat soils are very deficient in trace elements particularly copper and zinc. Many are also deficient in manganese. If a well-balanced plant food is used, it should be added with caution. Peat soils are by far the best for African violets because they hold water well, allow for root penetration and because they are granular and spongy and give very good aeration. This is exactly what African violets like. They do require high fertility, however. I have had plants blooming continuously for three years planted in Nitro-Gro and watered with alkaline water without repotting. end

ALUMINUM PIE PLATES MAKE WONDERFUL LEAF STARTERS

Patricia A. Bonsmier, Stockton, New Jersey

Don't discard a non-perforated aluminum pie plate after you have eaten the pie. Just turn up the sides, flute it like a pie crust, making the dish deeper, and you have a wonderful container for starting leaves.

Fill it with damp vermiculite, which should be patted down firm, then make holes with a pencil in the vermiculite, about two inches apart along the edge. Insert fresh cut leaves in these holes, with a name label at each leaf. If you use many varieties in one plate, face the name of the variety towards the leaf, so that in the event the leaf should die you will be certain which variety it is and you can easily replace it without error. If you use leaves of only one variety, you will need only one label. I use popsickle sticks for leaves. If you do not have name labels, you can use a small piece of adhesive tape with the name written on it, and attach it to the leaf.

Next, make a well in the center of the vermiculite where you will pour the water, so when the small plants appear they will not be damaged by top watering, but will receive bottom watering through the well. You can make the well before or after planting the leaves, whichever you prefer.

Use warm water for watering. If there is an excess of water after the vermiculite is damp, take a sponge that is cut lengthwise, about six inches long and one inch wide, and dip it in the well lengthwise. It will absorb all the excess water without any mess, and will not get the leaves or plants wet.

Place the plate of leaves in an east window, in a west window in filtered sunlight, or in a very bright window where it is warm and out of a draft.

Shortly you will have the nicest, sturdiest plants, ready for separating and planting in your favorite, sterilized African violet soil.

I have had my greatest success in rooting leaves in these aluminum plates, and they are most attractive. The pie plate keeps the moisture in longer, and it needs no saucer underneath to prevent marring your window sills. end

A DEFINITION

Tennessee Greene, Clarendon, Texas

Growing African violets as a hobby is a mild form of insanity which immunizes its victims against the more violet types — we hope. end

ON GROWING AFRICAN VIOLETS IN A CITY APARTMENT

Pauline Klein, New York City, New York

Out on Long Island, up in Westchester and across the river in New Jersey, indeed, in homes all around New York City one can see any day fine African violet plants flowering abundantly. In New York City, on Manhattan Island, in the same climate, the same temperature and the same light one may find, as I did, that African violets turned out to be recalcitrant flowerers.

For some years the plants I bought, the plants my friends gave me, all guaranteed flower producers, stopped flowering soon after they came to live in our city apartment. I tried all sorts of recommendations to insure flowering and while I had handsome plants, there were no flowers until I faced the very special problems of a city apartment. This article deals with my solution to these problems.

The first problem was sunlight. Practically speaking, no city apartment has four exposures so one begins with a limited area of light. Moreover, even in a south or east window the dust particles and the smoke filter out the intensity of the sun until it is below the intensity necessary to produce blooming plants, except in midsummer. I have found it better as a solution to the problem of light to depend almost entirely on fluorescent lights.

The second problem was the low humidity in the apartment. There are no direct exits to the outside and less doors in apartments than in houses so that the air tends to be parching. I was able to keep my plants blooming by keeping them in a room in which the radiator was never turned on. By using a soil mixture higher than usual in peat moss, I noticed that the plants stayed sufficiently moist to flower. It was not necessary to use sand or pebble trays as long as the plants were in a room without heat. No matter how much light the plants were given,

if the plants were put into a room which had recently been heated by a radiator, it affected the blooming of the plants. So I solved my problem of low humidity by putting the plants in a room sufficiently close to a window for some air to enter the window below the plants except on freezing nights when the window was tightly closed. The radiator was not turned on in this room at any time.

The last problem I faced represented perhaps a defeat for me. By trial I was finally convinced that there are varieties of African violets, many of them very beautiful, which simply do not flower well unless they receive sunlight. For these varieties fluorescent lights are no substitute. It is better to avoid the varieties, which by experience are found to be flowering plants in June and July in a sunny window and which lie dormant all winter. It is better to concentrate on the many kinds of violets that bloom happily all year round under fluorescent light.

Finally, if it appears that there exist special problems relative to growing African violets in a city apartment, there are compensations as well.

Plants in apartments stay disease free unless one introduces diseases carelessly from the outside. In a home the passage from the garden to the house requires more attention to the pests one can introduce than shopping in Saks Fifth Avenue and returning to one's apartment. The decorative effect of violets is enhanced in an apartment where there is no view outside of grander and gaudier flowers. Finally, plants in an apartment are easier to care for than in a home since they stay pest free and are less subjected to violent changes of temperature or drafts from outside doors.

In conclusion it appears that a New York City apartment is a very fine place to grow African violets without benefit of pebbles, special stands or watering apparatus as long as the room in which the violets grow is not heated and fluorescent light is used as a substitute for sunlight and finally, that the violet plants are those varieties which bloom well under such light.

end

HUSKY YOUNG PLANTS -- READY TO BLOOM

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BONNE FOI
FALLING STAR
KIMBERLY

LINGO
SPIC
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MONTVALE, N. J.

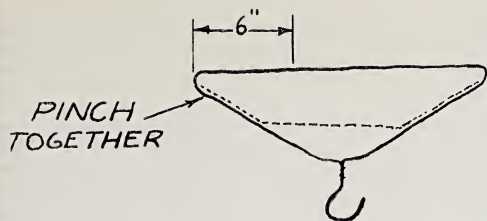


FIGURE 1.

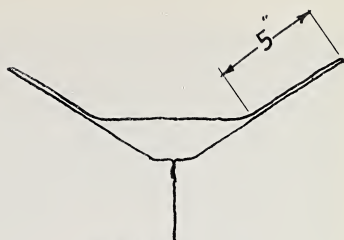


FIGURE 2.

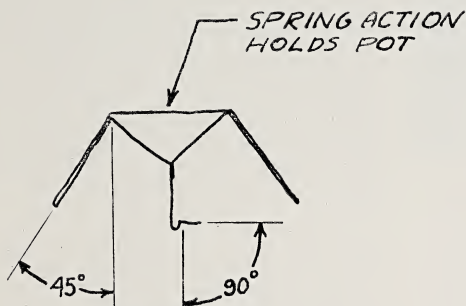


FIGURE 3.

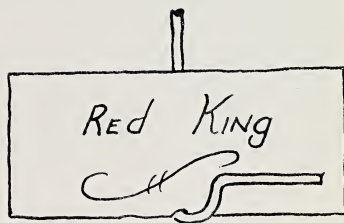


FIGURE 4.



SIDE
VIEW

WIRE DISPLAYERS EASILY MADE FROM COAT HANGERS

A versatile, inexpensive flower stand can be made very easily. The design is simple. Anyone can bend a coat hanger into this stand, and back into a coat hanger if it is needed, because there is no cutting. All you need is a pair of pliers.

Measure six inches in from the edge of the flat side of a common wire coat hanger (Figure 1). Pinch this wire and the one above it together. Do the same with the other side (Figure 2). Then straighten out the hook to form a true "Y"

Mrs. Jesse Brasel and Kenneth Brasel,
Kewanee, Illinois

with a triangle in the middle (Figure 2). Bend down the three legs to an angle of about forty-five degrees. You will notice that the "hook" part of the hanger is a little longer than the other two "legs." Bend this single wire up and out from about one and one-half inches from the bottom. Then, if you wish, you can bend it ninety degrees to right or left and have a place in which to set your identification cards (Figures 3 and 4).

When using the six inch measurement, you get a holder that will hold pots as large as three inches. For larger pots, decrease measurement to five inches (Figure 2) and proceed as before. The spring action of the top of the two back legs takes care of holding the pot and the angle to which it is tilted. end



ADVENTURES WITH VIOLETS

Mrs. John Baumel, Sparta, Wisconsin

My husband says I'm daft, my children say I'm teched, but the truth of the matter is I've simply been bitten by the African violet bug, and my eyes have been opened to the beauty and challenge of growing this perfect little house plant.

Several years ago HIS HIGHNESS HIMSELF had a slight case of this same fever, but at that time I was immune, uninterested and bored. So now it's a little embarrassing for me to enlist his help when I need it. All I can say, with a slightly red face, is, "A gal can change her mind, can't she?"



Mrs. Baumel is pictured with both kinds of African violet blossoms, the natural kind and artificial — ceramic earring flowers, necklaces and pins which are made from clay.

My first problem was that there was not enough space in a house already bursting at the seams with two teen-age boys, two extra-long weiner dogs, and an art table always cluttered with clay and paint for my ceramic earring hobby. Well, naturally my ceramic flowers took second place to nature's handiwork, so down went the table and in its place appeared a violet stand. I now have seventeen blooming plants there and a nursery of babies in the basement. These are kept in a glass case once intended for souvenirs. However, the three glass sides of this two foot by four foot case seemed perfect to me for a sort of large terrarium, and so, with a little planning and pounding, the greenhouse was born. The short hour's work I had asked of my long-suffering husband turned into eight — his whole day off — what with fluorescent fixtures to install and a change to make in the door. Now it swings downward and can be opened flat so that I can reach to the far corners easily.

A forty watt fixture was just a little too long to fit, so we installed a double twenty watt for one end and used an old fifteen watt fixture we had on hand on the other end. They were both spaced twelve inches from the rims of the pots, but I found that the white bulbs were throwing off too much heat and turning the leaves yellow. I eliminated one bulb and now use just one white and one daylight, end to end, making a total of thirty-five watts.

After experimenting awhile, I found that better results were obtained by keeping the door closed at all times. Perhaps enough air seeps in through the cracks around the door. At any rate, the temperature stays between sixty-five and seventy degrees, the humidity is high, and I water only once a week. The plants are thriving. I open the door as little as possible in order to keep the warm, moist air snugly around the little plants without chilling drafts touching them. Conditions are ideal for starting new plants, and some of the leaves started in May had plantlets by June, in about six weeks time.

In the morning the first thing I do is to turn on the greenhouse lights by way of a light cord strung along a winding route to eliminate the necessity of a trip downstairs. Later, when the rush of household duties is over, I indulge in a long leisurely look-see. At night, before retiring, I turn off the lights. The plants receive light about fourteen to sixteen hours a day. I am told that the cost is only one-fourth of a cent daily.

Looking back, I guess the inspiration for this venture was a luscious violet picture in a garden magazine. I marveled at the strides made in

This is the basement nursery which was made from an old souvenir case. New plants are started here.

developing larger, better-blooming plants, and the fringe, frills and shaded colors intrigued me. What a wonderful improvement from a few years ago.

Even the names sound beautiful. I began to jot down those I liked best, and then I found that detailed description sheets were available. These were a big help, for by studying the lists over and over I could soon recognize an old friend by name alone. Next I classified them into lists by color, type of leaf, and single or double flower, and narrowed the field to one of each type, to accommodate my limited space. I now have forty plantlets and thirty-four leaves growing in my nursery, along with a few achimenes, episcias and gloxinias. They like the same growing conditions and counteract the frustration I sometimes feel at the slower growing violets. However, I am acquiring more patience as time goes on and baby plantlets appear.

I always record the date that a new plant sprouts and check the columns that tell what rooting powder was used, whether the leaf was nicked to speed growth, and any other pertinent facts. I should be able to learn the best methods to use from these records.

Some of my leaves are from Elderkins and are radiated. This adds suspense to the venture as the radiation forms new types and colors and there will be some surprises when they flower. I am hoping for a true lasting yellow from my radiated Junie 23 and it has a baby plant started now which I watch zealously. Double Red Encore and Fire Dance, two huge leaves, have also sprouted small plantlets, along with eleven other non-radiated leaves. I have never bought a blooming plant; they have all been started from leaves or small plantlets which I bought or exchanged with friends. I think it is much more fun to wait and watch for that first bud to open myself. Some favorites that I am anxious to see

bloom are Angel Lace, Rose Wing, Fringed Snow Prince, Pink Spotlight, Pink Sister and Lacy Lavender Supreme. Cathedral Wine sounds as if it would be pretty too, especially since it has girl foliage which I particularly admire. Of course there is always a waiting list of new favorites I hope to add to my collection soon. My inventory list shows forty-five different varieties, with several duplicates of some.

I must admit my enthusiasm manifested itself in overwatering and overfertilizing a few times, but I suppose everyone goes through this stage. Now I restrain myself to following directions and only fertilizing once every two weeks. The number of new fertilizers on the market today is encouraging too, for a plant must bloom to be of any worth, and with the correct fertilizer, humidity and light, blooms are guaranteed. The time was when we had to be content with spring blooms only, but those days are gone forever, thanks to research and experimentation.

Perhaps the fact that we have been breeding dogs lately inspired me to try to breed some violet seed of my own. At any rate, I carefully pollinated a purple-specked Fantasy with a single pink variety one day, following directions in an old issue of a garden magazine. To make it more official, I tagged it with a collar bearing the date, names, etc., and am hoping for a pink speck seed. The seed pod is swollen now, but it will be months before it turns brown and dry for harvesting, I understand. It is a slow process but it is fascinating.

I like to believe that the miracle of a blooming flower by the Hand of God is a small glimpse into His beautiful Heaven. So, till the day I am crowded out of house and home by my enthusiasm for acquiring these quiet little beauties, I shall continue to grow them and find happiness in those quiet moments I spend just looking at them. end

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LIFETIME PLASTIC MARKERS are ideal for use by the home or the commercial grower or dealer to identify and price plants, cuttings, or seedlings. The large sizes are used in nurseries and conservatories for identification of trees and shrubs. Tie-on tags give permanent identification to nursery stock and perennials. (Style A is preferred by growers of African violets.)

Write on LIFETIME markers with ordinary soft lead pencil. The markings stay on until removed with a damp cloth and scouring powder, whether used indoors and outdoors. They will not decay or disintegrate, and may be cleaned and reused repeatedly.

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SO, YOU'RE INTERESTED IN MIXING YOUR OWN SOIL?

Lizeta Hamilton, Oradell, New Jersey

It has been my pleasure to have been a member of the African Violet Society for almost one year. In that time I have been learning a great deal. It seems to me that the most important lesson I have learned is that I really knew very little!

I have read with keenest interest all of your soil concoctions, including those in African violet books. Each varying recipe I have yearned to try, but alas, there are just too many for me to make and try during my remaining life span.

Thanks to Doris Leigh, I learned in the spring of 1958 of the University of California's Manual #23, costing \$1.00. I sent for it immediately, since my motto is "There is no time like the present." It is one of the best investments I ever made.

Since then I have pored over THAT book! I have written dozens of letters and traveled many miles to get recommended supplies. Finally the day arrived; I was really ready to make the mix! Happy day! It was hard, hot work but it was fun, too! When finished, I put my fingers through THAT mix. African violeteers, it was just like crawling into a beautifully made fresh sheeted bed, stretching out your bones and fanning out your toes, sighing and falling into a peaceful sleep. THAT is one wonderful mix!

January, June or October, day or night, compost versus leaf mold versus you-name-it, THERE IS NO VARIANCE WITH THAT MIX. It is always the same. To me, I have "won the jackpot."

Now professionals need not read this. Those of you with one or two plants will not want to make this mix. Many of you will want to buy either (1) the mineral ingredients for the mix or (2) the finished mix. But, here it is: —

University of California Soil Mix ID — for one cubic foot soil

- 65 grains potassium nitrate
- 65 grains potassium sulphate
- 1 ounce (81 grains) single superphosphate
- 2¾ ounces (93 grains) dolomite lime
- 2¼ ounces (53 grains) calcium carbonate lime
- 19½ quarts (¾ cubic foot) sifted wet packed peat moss
- 3½ quarts fine to medium sand .5mm to .05mm (no clay or silt)
- 3½ quarts Sponge-Rok ½" plus in diameter

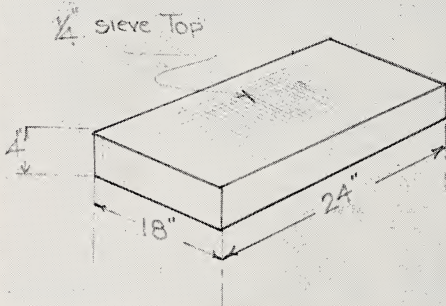
To this I add:

- 1.3 ounces formaldehyde 37% to sterilize soil
- 1 teaspoon V-C 13 for protection against nematodes

I usually mix about three cubic feet of the mix at a time, equivalent to 1½ ash cans, to help you visualize the amount. Then, as I use the mix, to 1 cubic foot I add 1½ ounces of dried blood. This should be used within a few weeks, otherwise the benefit of the dried blood (available nitrogen) may be lost.

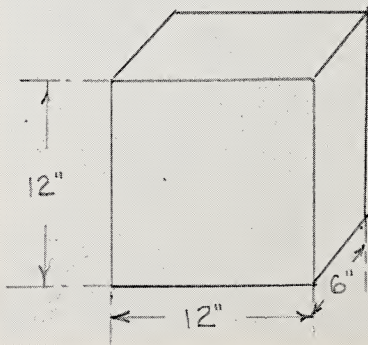
Perhaps I am still a child, but I like to see and to hear in order to make something. Otherwise, by just following a recipe, I ALWAYS have questions. Do you sift the flour before or after measuring; do you measure the chopped nuts before or after grinding? So, here is what I do in order to have a lovely mix at the finish.

Sift and force the dry peat moss through a ¼ inch sieve. I use a bread blade putty knife.



Above, the size and design of the sieve Mrs. Hamilton recommends.

Below, the dimensions of the measuring box the author writes about.



Moisten enough to pack and measure. My husband made me a box out of odds and ends. Interior measurements are 6" x 12" x 12" — equal to ½ cubic foot. I pack 1½ boxes of moistened peat moss.

Add the sand and Sponge-Rok. If you use "my box" just add the ½ full box of peat moss, ¼ sand and ¼ Sponge-Rok, and you have it. You may use all sand or all Sponge-Rok if you wish.

An old sheet, spread, canvas or an old awning spread out on the garage or cellar floor will allow you to mix this mixture effectively. Spread mixture out over an area of about five feet and be sure it is well mixed. I use the back side of a small rake and push away and pull toward me over and over and over again.

Next, add your powdered ingredients previously measured out and well mixed. I find it most convenient to use a 4 or 5 inch strainer and sprinkle very evenly over the whole mix. Now, again, mix and mix and mix. I do not suppose any of us would ever mix enough or mix too much.

Now take a handful of the mix in your hand and squeeze. If any water comes out, you have moistened your peat moss too much. I think at this point you should let it stand, spread out thinly, to dry out a bit — one reason I prefer an awning or canvas to a lighter weight material.

In a pint or quart bottle of water I put the V-C 13 and the formaldehyde. With a clothes sprinkling cap, carefully distribute it over the spread out mix. If you are fearsome you will not distribute the potassium nitrate and sulphate in the dry mix, you may add these two to this solution, but mix well.

It is done! You put your mix in a CLOSED container for twenty-four hours. Then aerate it by stirring well. It is best to let this mix stand for ten to fourteen days, or even one month.

There must be someone near you, like me, from whom you could buy one to four pounds of this mix. Just do not expect them to sell it to you at the store rate of ten cents a pound. There is no comparison. This is more than a dirt mix. It takes time and fortitude to get and mix the ingredients.

Do not neglect to do a pH test. It MUST be around 6.0 to 6.75, you know. Since the pH of the peat moss I use is very acid, I always have to add ½ pound of lime to the cubic foot. I know! I have tested many times. I have double checked by having Rutgers University do a horticultural soil test.

I think too few people plan ahead, thinking is not the order of our day. But if you do, you will always have THIS mix on hand, ready for your lovely African violets, be it leaf cutting, plantlet or established plant. A mix for EVERYTHING.

If I have left something out, send an addressed stamped envelope and, if I am able, I will answer your question. If you have something that will be helpful to me, it will be wonderful to hear from you. end

GREETINGS FROM UNITED KINGDOM

The President, Secretary and members of the First British Branch of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., send their heartiest good wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to fellow members wheresoever they may be.

May the coming year see our great circle of friends become ever wider through that fellowship of "love of African violets" which is the foundation stone of our Society.

Let the "wee flower" inculcate friendship and good fellowship wherever it is grown and in the words of our New Zealand member, "Kia Ora."

POWDERED DEHYDRATED COW MANURE

African Violets bloom gloriously! Small half-ounce odorless packet makes full gallon liquid cow manure instantly. Water plants as usual, with this nutritious solution containing elements science can't duplicate. Contains no added chemicals. Promotes fast, luxuriant growth, more abundant colorful blooms. Good for all plant life. Will not burn. Just pour contents of packet in gallon of water, or use teaspoonful to make a quart — it's ready to use! Send \$1.00 now for 10 packets, postpaid.

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A new book by Esther C. Grayson fully illustrated from photographs by F. F. Rockwell gives a complete guide on the growing and culture of African Violets. It is also a reference book for listings of new varieties as to color, style of flower and names. Covers subject of propagation from cuttings and seeds as well as divisions.

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AFRICAN VIOLET ODDITIES

Frederick W. Cole, Auckland, New Zealand

I was particularly interested in the article by Mr. Arthur G. Chard in the March 1957 magazine as I have experienced a very pleasant surprise with one of my African violet plants raised from seed.

Firstly, this plant threw four flower spikes with six blooms to each spike.

Spike one—every flower was a very dark blue, similar to Blue Pacific.

Spike two—two flowers are blue; one is blue on one side and white on the other, or half blue and half white; two are white with medium blue edging and veins of pale blue; one is white with a wider and darker blue edge and also has pale blue veins.

Spikes three and four—all blue flowers with the exception of one or two with similar markings to the above.

Later four more spikes came, eight flowers to each spike, but only the odd one here and there with similar markings.

It would be very interesting to hear if any of our readers have had a similar experience with this mixed colouring of blooms on the same flower spike.

This plant is a free flowering type producing large single flowers on long stalks, and has heavy, dark green leaves, lighter green underneath.

end

STERILIZING SOIL

Alice G. Watters, Lancaster, N. B., Canada

When I first became interested in growing African violets I knew nothing at all about sterilizing the soil, but after losing several plants to cutworms, I decided something must be done.

In case someone might think it a bit extravagant to be baking soil in an electric oven, I will say that I use the heat which is left in the oven after baking something for the family. (I am sometimes accused of doing more baking for the African violets than I do for the family.)

I control the heat at two hundred degrees; then I put the soil in a large bake pan, moisten it well with hot water, put it in the oven and leave it there for one hour. I do not use this soil for about twelve days, but in between times I turn it over several times.

When I have a supply of soiled clay pots, I wash and scrape them well, then put them in the oven with the soil to sterilize them.

end

COULD YOUR VIOLET TROUBLES BE CAUSED BY WATER?

Marie Dannemiller, Barberton, Ohio

They certainly can! We know that water is composed of two parts hydrogen and one part oxygen, plus many kinds of minerals taken from the soil and rocks in the surrounding area. When we drink strange water, how many times have we shuddered and said, "Oh! what awful tasting water!" That is because the mineral content is different than what we are used to. It stands to reason that those minerals will have their effect on our plants.

Two of my friends who had hundreds of violets moved to the country and finally lost everything because of the high iron content of their well water. A large city in the mid-west has trouble with water containing too much calcium. And, so it goes.

Have you ever stopped to think why the oceans are saltier every year? Water is the greatest robber in the world; raindrops, little streams and rivers lap greedily at stones and rocks, dissolving chemicals and salts, and carrying them on to the seas; the water evaporates but the salt stays behind, and the rivers keep adding more all the time. This has been going on since the beginning of time and there is nothing anybody can do to halt this robbery.

end



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SO CUTE

Helen Montgomery, Kansas City, Missouri

The popularity of miniatures is growing by leaps and bounds. At the present time the demand for the small plants is greater than the growers of these wee varieties can supply.

We feel that eventually they will be first on everyone's list of house plants. Their adaptability to the different temperatures in apartments, the attractiveness they lend to homes and offices sitting on the window sills, and their blooming just as prolifically in natural daylight as under fluorescent fixtures, makes them so desirable.

There is no question but that they answer the problem of the collector who wants a lot of different varieties and only has a small amount of space in which to grow them.

Our definitions for the miniature and semi-miniature are:

Miniature—small plant, not to exceed six inches in width. Small flowers and small foliage.

Semiminiature—small plant, not to exceed six inches in width. Flowers and foliage size optional.

Below we have listed the ones we find to be "true miniatures" and the color of the blossoms:

Baby Fingers — bicolor lavender
Blue Corsage — blue sweet pea type bloom
Bob-O-Link — red single
Bronze Elf — reddish-orchid single
Bubbles — dark double blue
Chartreuse — white single, chartreuse tips
Cutie Pie — reddish-lavender single
Dana Elizabeth — double bluish-purple
Dolly Dimple — single blue
Double Dumping — double blue
Dubonnet — single wine
Elf Toes — double purple
Grumpy — dark blue single
Happy — rosy-lavender single
Heidi — bicolor lavender
Irish Rose — reddish-orchid single
Joni — bicolor reddish-orchid
Laughter — single rose
Lavender Elfin Girl — single lavender
Limeade — double purple,
 variegated foliage
Little Eva — single blue
Michelle — double pink
Miniature Edith Cavell — fringed single
 lavender
Miniature Geneva Girl — single purple,
 white edge
Miniature Sea Nymph — blue sweet pea
 type bloom
Mischief — rose single
Naughty Marietta — single pink
Pastel Baby — rosy-pink single
Pink Ears — white single, tipped in pink

Pink Queen — single pink
Pink Rock — double pink
Pitty Pat — lavender sweet pea type bloom
Precious — double pink
Purple Cushion — purple single
Purple Fleurette — fringed single purple
Roberta — double purple, edged in white
Saintpaulia shumensis — light blue single
Sneezy — semidouble blue
Snow Lace — double white, sometimes a small amount of blue
Star Tips — white with chartreuse markings (does not always propagate true)
Sunshine Baby — double light blue
Thumbelina — bicolor lavender
Tinker Bell — single red
Tinkle — double lavender
Tinted Baby — white with blue markings
Wee Tad — cupped blue blooms
Wee Wonder — single blue
Wendy — single medium blue
White Doll — white single, pink cast
White Elf — pure white single

We like the semiminiatures as well as the true miniatures; however, for perfection, balance and scale, the true miniatures are the answer. Huge blossoms and larger leaves do tend to throw the small plants out of proportion.

end

IN MEMORIAM

CHARLES H. CURTIS,
V. M. H. ENGLAND

It is with regret that we learn of the death on March 24th of Mr. Charles H. Curtis who had for so long contributed his weekly "Reminiscences and Observations" to the British publication "Amateur Gardening."

Mr. Curtis, who was in his eighty-ninth year, had been connected with horticulture since boyhood. He was a member of the Royal Horticulture Society's Orchid Committee, the National Sweet Pea Society, and the National Chrysanthemum Society, and until a few weeks before his death was chairman of the Gardener's Royal Benevolent Institution in Buckinghamshire.

Mr. Curtis was the recipient of many Awards; his final honor was to be made a Member of the Order of the British Empire in 1950.

He was managing editor of the Gardener's Chronicle from 1919 until his retirement in 1950, when he began to write his weekly page for Amateur Gardening, which was so well received by amateur gardeners throughout Britain. end

THE INFLUENCE OF ADENINE AND KINETIN ON BUD INITIATION IN SAINTPAULIA

Thomas H. Plummer, Lafayette, Indiana

Smith (6) reported the first study using chemical agents to promote greater bud (plantlet) formation on Saintpaulia leaf cuttings. He reported that adenine greatly stimulated plantlet development when used alone. Auxin applications, on the other hand, had the undesirable effect of inhibiting bud formation. The ability of adenine to stimulate bud initiation from undifferentiated cells in tissue culture has been well-established by Skoog (3, 4, 5). More recently Miller et al (1, 2) reported another compound, kinetin, that was more effective in bud enhancement. The purpose of this study was to determine the effects of these compounds on the propagation of the African violet. Two methods of application were used — leaf base soaking and talc dip — and each will be discussed separately.

1. LEAF BASE SOAKING

Materials and Methods

The experiments were conducted from late February, 1956, until June, 1957. Uniform, mature leaves were cut from vigorous Saintpaulia plants of several varieties. The leaf petiole bases were immersed in test solutions for twenty-four hours. After treatment they were placed in moist vermiculite in flats lined with polyethylene to avoid fungus infection.

The treatments reported herein utilized aqueous solutions of various concentrations of adenine sulfate and of kinetin. Several separate experiments were conducted, all of which gave very similar results.

Results and Discussion

Adenine and kinetin were tested over a wide range of concentrations. The rooting responses resulting from the treatments are shown in Fig. 1. Adenine evoked a small stimulation of root growth, whereas kinetin caused a strong inhibition. This inhibition was found to be transitory and apparently did not retard the subsequent development of the cutting, if optimal growing conditions were supplied. (More will be said about this statement later.)

The effects of adenine and kinetin on plantlet formation of the Saintpaulia variety Rose Pink Bouquet are plotted in Fig. 2. Cuttings treated with water alone produced an average of nine buds. Adenine at 100 ppm. increased bud production approximately 65 per cent. Kinetin had an even greater promotive effect, causing approximately a 110 per cent increase at 25 ppm. These results have been repeated.

Table 1 presents further data on this subject. Three other varieties were tested at concentrations presumed to be optimal.

The data of Fig. 2 indicate that both adenine and kinetin are effective in promoting bud formation in cuttings, but that kinetin has a greater promotive effect in addition to a wider effective concentration range. This data was collected under optimal growing conditions. Under less than optimal conditions the inhibition of rapid rooting resulting from kinetin treatment would cause a delay in establishment of the cutting and a lessened effect in plantlet promo-

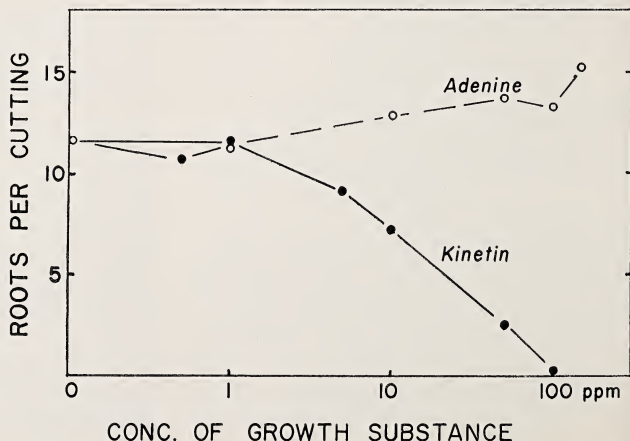
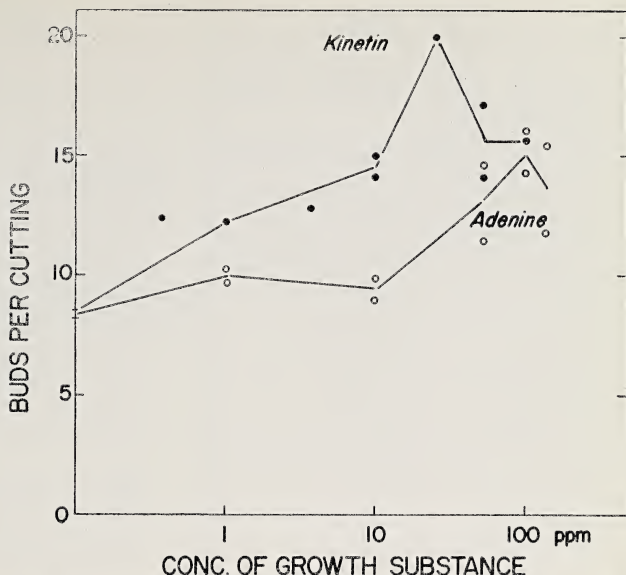


Fig. 1. Effects of adenine and of kinetin on root formation by Saintpaulia leaf cuttings. Each point represents 12 cuttings.

Fig. 2. Effects of adenine and of kinetin on bud formation by *Saintpaulia* cuttings. Each point represents 12 cuttings; two separate experiments are plotted together.



tion. This is reflected in Table 1 where the growing conditions were not regulated as carefully. In this respect adenine would be superior as it slightly stimulates root growth in addition to bud growth under the conditions employed. It may be added that hormone powders or solutions containing indolebutyric acid such as Smith used may lead to an increase in number of plantlets produced, not through a direct influence on plantlet formation as produced by adenine and kinetin but through an indirect influence by promoting quicker plant establishment. At the concentrations used indolebutyric acid inhibits bud growth.

2. TALC DIP TREATMENTS

Realizing that these compounds would be more easily applied in talc form, the author made up a series of arbitrary concentrations. They were tested and the results tabulated by the author and Mr. Henry C. Peterson of Cincinnati, Ohio. The results will not be presented here as further work is needed. They represent conflicting data: one of promotion by the author and no effect by Mr. Peterson.

The reason for this seems due to the method of application. The author used the talc as a dip for freshly cut leaves just before planting. Mr. Peterson dipped the leaves in a 5 per cent Clorox

solution and then let the leaf bases air dry for two days before planting, treating the leaves after the first day. The chemical nature of these compounds is such that its uptake would be difficult under these conditions. Hence no promotion would be observed.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Bud initiation in the basal callus of *Saintpaulia* was found to be promoted by application of either adenine sulfate or kinetin. Adenine is considered to represent a compound quite suitable for the shoot stimulation of African violets. It gives a slight stimulation of rooting in addition to a large promotion of plantlet formation.

Acknowledgments:

The author would like to express his appreciation to Dr. A. C. Leopold of Purdue University for his guidance during this work. Some of the plants were kindly donated by Granger Gardens of Medina, Ohio, and the rest by the Plummer Violet House of Parma, Ohio. Some of this data was originally presented in the following paper: Plummer, T. H., and A. C. Leopold. 1957. Chemical treatment for bud formation in *Saintpaulia*. Proc. Amer. Soc. Hort. Sci. 70:442-444.

Continued bottom next page

Table 1. Response of varieties to adenine and kinetin.

Variety	Check	Average No. of Buds		Per Cent Increase	
		Kinetin	Adenine	Kinetin	Adenine
Amazon Girl	4.1	6.0	7.0	46	71
Chelsia Blue	6.8	9.6	10.0	41	47
Dupont Lavender Pink	4.1	6.8	6.1	66	50

These data represent the average of one treatment of 12 cuttings each.

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Blue Flag	Pink Celebrity Sup.
Blue Gold Lace	Pink Cheer Dbl. Sup.
Blushing Sup.	Pink Geneva
Bonnie Girl	Pink Marble
Cloud Fringe	Pink Spray
Darkest Africa	Portrait
Dbl. Star Purple	Ramona
Excel	Raspberry Pink
Fair Lady	Red Glow
Falling Star	Redderness
Freckles	So Sweet
Fringed Dbl. Pink	Spotlight
Go Pink	Swiss Pansy
H. Van Pelt Wilson	Town Talk
Lavender Gold Lace	Vagabond
Light Blue Cluster	Valiant Lady
Little Jewel	White Gold Lace

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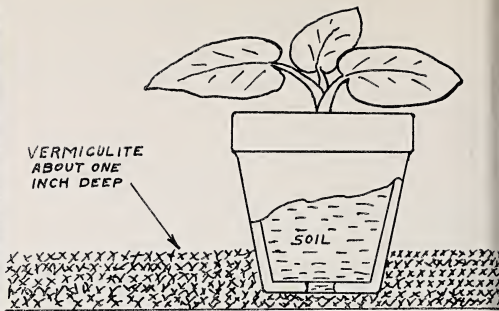
AFRICAN GIRL	MY SIN
ANN RUTLEDGE	NANCY HANKS
BITTERSWEET	PINK BABYBREATH
BLUE NOCTURNE	PINK GLAMOUR
CHARTREUSE LACE	PINK RIPPLES
CHIPPEVA	PINK SEQUIN
CLARISSA HARRIS	POPCORN
COTTONTOP	PRELUDE
DARK STAR PINK	PRIMATIF
DAYTIDE	ROYAL LACE
DIXIE MOONBEAM	SEA SHADOWS
DOUBLE DANDY	SHOW CHAMPION
DBL. PEACH BLOSSOM	SHOW SHADOWS
DRESDEN DREAM	SILVER FLUTE
FASCINATION	SKY BLUE PINK
FINE SWANK	SNOWY PRINCESS
FRINGED	SPIC
APPLE BLOSSOM	SPAN
FRINGED POM POM	SPELLBOUND
FRINGED	SPLASH
SNOW PRINCE	STAR BLUE
FROSTED	STAR WHITE
SNOW PRINCE	STRIKE ME PINK
GLADNESS	SUNDAY BEST
HOLIDAY SPORT	T V CUT VELVET
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CAPILLARY ACTION

Bunnie McGraw, Downers Grove, Illinois

We are all familiar with the absorption of
water in a sponge, ink in a blotter, or coffee
in a lump of sugar. This is the same principle
which is used in my trays for the plants. I use
about an inch of vermiculite in each tray, then
keep it damp. The pots which are nestled in it
absorb the moisture from the vermiculite and
never get too much water for the plants' use.
The humidity from the damp vermiculite which
surrounds the pots is also valuable to the growth
and general good horticulture of the violets. It
is possible, and practical, to feed the plants by
mixing a soluble plant food in the water which
is added to the vermiculite. end

Continued from preceding page

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WINDOW SHADING

Myrtle Radtke, Cincinnati, Ohio

For the last six summers, ever since we moved into our house with the three-windowed bay facing east, I have been experimenting with ways of protecting my plants from the sun.

I have used match stick bamboo shades, tobacco cloth, clear plastic, and a heavy amber or yellow plastic which I bought from Neil Miller. For my purpose the latter is the most satisfactory.

The bamboo shade and the tobacco cloth were all right, but unless they were raised at noon when the sun ceased to shine there, I had a definite decline in bud formation. The clear plastic seems to intensify the heat of the sun, and, although the plants did not suffer from sunburn, they wilted from the heat.

I like plain white tissue paper for shading too, but cannot use it as these windows are in the front of the house. end

WILL YOU?

Marie Dannemiller, 123 25th St., N.W.,
Barberton, Ohio

It is four years since the first Nature's Way article was published in June 1954, and, as a result, the mail has never stopped coming.

It is very gratifying to learn that many African violet hobbyists have benefited by these articles. After the successful Organic Workshop at the Rochester Convention, the question comes to my mind, I wonder HOW MANY? One of the commercial growers told me that more and more in their category are going over to organics.

If you have been helped and would like the Nature's Way articles continued from time to time, would you be willing to invest three cents in a plain postcard, take a minute's time to tell how, and send it to me? We have had many discussions and many of us are mighty curious. Won't you send your card and help in the tally; the total will be given later. Please do it now. Thanks a million. end

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STYRA-SOIL: THE SOIL IN COLORS, FOR PLANTS

Elsie Klein Davis, Vicksburg, Mississippi

For years I had done everything, and I mean everything, that Montague Free and the other great authorities said was foolproof for African violets, but I still had a succession of Saintpaulia funerals.

About two years ago Mr. Florian Nelson produced the now famous Styra-Soil and I decided to experiment with this for various plants, cuttings, seeds, and especially with African violets. When I told this to Mr. Nelson, his only comment was, "Let me know how you come out."

My experience since I started using Styra-Soil sums up to this — I cannot lose an African violet plant or leaf. And oh, the exquisite pieces of heirloom and modern glass that now glorify my violets, and are in turn, glorified by them! For instance, odd pieces may be a stemmed goblet or two remaining from a set put away because there was no use for so few, or some heirloom Bohemian. These are now on tables, mantels and window sills, filled with Styra-Soil in the color to match or contrast with the living room, dining room, bathroom, kitchen or porch, and with the Saintpaulias blooming exquisitely therein. At my side is a youngster of some six or seven months from a leaf, not three inches high, boasting fourteen leaves and nineteen, one inch in diameter, blossoms with more buds pushing up. It is deep purple, set in green Styra-Soil, in a tiny green foil cup that chive cheese came in. These little foil cups are ideal "starters" and the tiny plants bloom so quickly and so freely in them when they are filled with Styra-Soil — pink, blue, green, red, variegated and yellow, all in the most heavenly shades.

In Styra-Soil, heat does not bother African violets. Our Mississippi temperatures have ranged from ninety degrees up since early June. Our house is air conditioned, but the violets out

on the hot porch have flourished and blossomed beautifully.

After many months of experimenting and not losing a plant or leaf, the procedure I personally consider really "foolproof" is:

To transfer a violet plant from soil to Styra-Soil, I carefully remove the plant from the container and remove all the soil I can with my fingers. To remove any soil that clings to the fine root system, I immerse the roots in a weak Clorox and lukewarm water solution (one-third teaspoon to a quart) and gently, gently remove all the soil. For a large plant with long roots I fill one-half the new container with lukewarm water and Styra-Soil, then, holding the crown of the plant at container level, I carefully guide the roots down into the Styra-Soil. Next, I add Styra-Soil to within one-half inch from the top of the container. Holding the violet, I add water to just below the top of the Styra-Soil. I press the Styra-Soil down with a scalded silver spoon, as it has a tendency to rise above water until it absorbs it. Pack the Styra-Soil sufficiently to steady the violet in an upright position. Keep the crown above the Styra-Soil and the water just below the top of the Styra-Soil.

Styra-Soil has a nutrient added, but after six weeks I add Stim-U-Plant in the proportion given for the amount of water the container holds. For leaves and baby plants, I add a tiny pinch of Stim-U-Plant after two months.

What is Styra-Soil? Its base is Styrofoam, which is shredded and colored, and has a nutrient added. Its originator is Mr. Florian Nelson of Vicksburg, Mississippi. Its price is \$1.00 per package postpaid from Styra-Soil, Inc., Vicksburg, Mississippi.

If what I have written helps you who love Saintpaulias as I do, I am grateful.

end

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HOW TO KEEP GIRL FOLIAGE FROM BUNCHING

Mary E. Suhr, Waterville, Ohio

I believe that the "girls" grow better in natural light than they do under fluorescent light. Why this is I have no idea. I have observed that the growth habits of the plants with girl foliage are the exact opposite of the ones with plain foliage. As each circle or row of leaves appears and grows on the plain type, the petioles are just enough shorter on each succeeding row so that the leaves fit between the leaves of the preceding row, being just enough shorter each row that each circle tapers back, making a perfect pattern pleasing to the eye.

With girl foliage it is quite the opposite, on each succeeding row the petioles are slightly longer, and the typical girl foliage being fluted and slightly cupped, the longer petiole just naturally is propped on the leaf below, causing it to reach upward or "bunchy" as we say.

The answer: remove enough lower leaves to permit the remaining ones to lie flat. This will not, however, apply to all of the "bunchy girls." With some varieties it is virtually impossible to make them grow flat and beautiful! The reason, I believe, lies within the plant itself: the genes, that is. An oversupply of girl genes, and nothing we do will ever make it grow any differently.

Mrs. William Rodda, Ossian, Indiana

I have always found that it has been certain varieties with girl foliage that are inclined to bunch up.

Light has a great deal to do with growing them symmetrically. I think that a plant getting

a very strong light will be more compact than one grown in less light. Under the artificial lights, they seem to be fairly well formed.

Some varieties, such as Painted Girl and Edith Morelock, never get wide for me but do grow tall with age and I have found that they will twist their petioles unless I have them in strong light. Tennessee Debutante is a favorite and it used to twist a lot, but recently I have been able to keep it very symmetrical with no twisting whatever.

Marjorie Buckner, Pleasant Hill, Missouri

I hesitate to express an opinion on the subject of how to make plants with girl foliage grow flat and beautiful.

Of course, the difficulty of too tight, upright foliage does not apply to all girl foliage plants, as many of them grow beautifully of their own accord.

It does seem, in my opinion, and this has been confirmed by a well-known Kansas City African violet authority, that those plants inclined to have upright foliage tend to increase this unpleasant habit when grown under lights, especially during the summer months. This tendency appears, in many varieties, to be overcome by the use of natural light rather than artificial light. This is true not for girl foliage alone, but also for some plants with plain foliage. end

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CHAFF FROM CRICKEN FARM



Vera Covert, Amsterdam, New York

Hi Neighbors! Here's that woman again. It has been a long time since we've had a coffee chat.

I found that sometimes life has a way of getting out of hand. Due to circumstances beyond my control (I think that's the phrase), I haven't been able to send my patient editor any copy for some time.

Now that we are approaching another Christmas season, I thought it would be nice if we got together for a cup of "java" and some ideas on planting. So let's talk about some of the novel and different kinds of containers that might please our gesneriad window sill friends.

As fond as I am of all my plants, I find myself growing restless with the same arrangement of pots. Let's face it—plants DO have personalities. Now a bright red hat will do nothing for a red haired gal . . . and a brown dress will kill a head of beautiful silver hair . . . and what does this have to do with pots, you are wondering? Well, what I'm leading up to say is a container should help bring out the beauty of a plant: not clash with it or detract from it. Maybe you'd like to hear about some of the solutions I have thought out to try and break the monotony of pots in my little plant room here at Cricken Farm.

I am fortunate in having two wall areas of peg board and do I ever have fun! At first I had a few glass shelves here but most of them have been replaced with all sorts of things that hang. There are small fish creels, woven basket containers with tin linings, copper mesh holders in which I put pottery jars, old wooden scoops, a glass violin and a big pottery spoon. In these decorative containers I grow columnneas, aeschynanthus, grape ivy, Hoya bella (that's the small variety), bronze leaf philodendron, creeping fig, sunset ivy, Brazilian fire cracker and episcias.

An antique child's cradle, about eight by twelve inches, rocks an episcia collection and they clamber over the sides like youngsters tumbling from bed. Another episcia is popping out of an old square iron teakettle. A New England salt box contains a sunset ivy and a Vallinpink. I planted a wee white porcelain medicine dispenser (circa 1875) with Linnie Lyon's double Miniature Fantasy Girl. An old mustache cup holds Lyon's Starlite.

Old sugar bowls, especially Spode, make charming planters. Try Mine Alone in a pink one, or Camellia in a blue one. A brass scoop, lined with foil, (plant roots seem to resent copper and brass) makes Lyon's Mrs. Ackerman look right handsome, especially when a sprig of ivy trails from the tip.

Then there's the Cory coffee maker top. And speaking of coffee, let's have a fresh cup. I'll confess that long since I gave up trying to win the race against breakage. A pyrex pot will last forever but the Cory deal is a horse of another color. I always had a top of one model or a base of another, the two not being compatible. So, I plant wee started leaves in the squatty bases and Lady Lou nestles happily in a top, and as it sits in its tall holder, of course the drainage is perfect.

There is a regular size fish creel, discarded by one of my men, because it had literally fallen apart. With the judicious use of a leather thong, nylon yarn and pipe cleaners, I managed a nice home for *Columnea tulae* 'Flava.' True, it DOES hang a bit off center, but that only adds to its jaunty air.

Of course there are the usual strawberry jars, little and big; splint baskets with handles, so they may be suspended from a hook; brandy snifters, from the economy five quart size to the small ones. A mother duck and her three offspring hold rooting snips of gesneriads. A wee dough box holds baby tears. Ivory and milk glass pedestaled pottery spill treasures of episcias. An old bent wood box, decorated with Pennsylvania Dutch, displays a big African violet. A small sugar bucket makes a nest for *Episcia dianthaeflora*.

Now you know there is one thing a Scot cannot endure and that is WASTE. The area from the top of a violet plant to the ceiling is just that. So hanging from the ceiling you'll see a big wire basket of African violets. It holds nine or ten. Then there are two or three conductor strainers, the kind a plumber uses on eaves troughs, lined with moss and planted with trailing gesneriads. A passion vine wanders up a long, smooth bit of driftwood; I have always been a driftwood planter, and this summer I really went overboard. While on a trip through Smuggler's Notch, Vermont, we found a beautiful old tree stump, just full of natural pockets. We

loaded it in the rear deck and when we reached home, I gave it several soakings of strong Malathion. Finally it was placed in a corner of the plant room, and every pocket and niche was filled with all kinds of gesneriads. My husband is still listening for termites, and our son killed several carpenter ants, but to date the house seems solid. I'm sure that there are times when my family takes a very dim view of my brain storms . . . and I am sympathetic . . . but determined as all get out!

Around this stump are smaller pieces of planted driftwood and interesting rocks. The concrete floor makes this last zany bit of planting possible. It would hardly be practical on one's living room floor, I'll admit.

There are times when I want accessories I don't have, so necessity becomes the mother of invention. I found the raffia cover of a wine bottle will make a container for a spider plant. Of course, I DID have to do a bit of patching with plastic "twistems," then I suspended it with looped pipe cleaners and a heavy nail bent like an S hook.

Wire coat hangers can be co-operative also. With a little manipulation one can produce a trellis, a hook, a tiny greenhouse roof support and many other odds and ends from these closet cluttering nightmares.

A wire lettuce washer may hang or sit. I like mine sitting in a deep tin tray which is filled with moist sphagnum moss. *Episcias* love this set up. A discarded aquarium becomes a maternity ward for leaves and cuttings. An old wooden butter mold, deep as a brick of butter, makes a lovely planter and the twin starred top (used for decorating the butter) adds a decorative touch when propped alongside. Long willow basket planters, lined with tin, are nice on window sills or a shelf. Old bread tins decorated, look handsome when they hold plants or vines. A Lazy Susan holds a deep metal tray filled with special plants and revolves smoothly for watering or admiration.

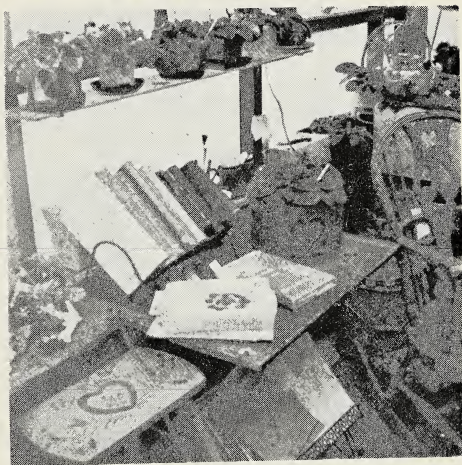
I have a collection of sea shells, large and small. So I made a display on a weathered old board of these planted shells and arranged tufts of dried sea weed, coral, beach glass and barnacles in between.

My latest "find" was an antique wire fly catcher. By separating each half, I made two basket containers to plant with *episcias* and suspend from bird cage hooks. Bless my soul, this could go on indefinitely! There is no end to the variety of things one may use for planters. And they sure do break the monotony of rows of pots. I'm still searching for a medium-size coffee grinder that will conform to my pocket book, and I haven't yet planted a sweet old butter churn that I found in an antique shop because I can't decide if I want to make a top for it and use it as a coffee table or see something green growing out of the top.



Above, containers pictured: a bird cage, Lazy Susan, Cory coffee top, butter mold, baskets, scoop, tiny medicine dispenser (on shelf), sugar bowls. Just above the Lazy Susan is a drawing of the John Conant home in Vermont.

Below, featured container here is a bent wood box in Pennsylvania Dutch design.



Well, here comes Grandmaw across the driveway and she seems to be in a hurry. I hope nothing has happened. "Come in, Grandmaw. You are all out of breath."

"Land sakes, you got your column done yet? I sure hope not, 'cause I got a verse I want you should put in it. It ain't about viles, but it's sort of upliftin' and comfortin' sometimes. I'll jest read it to you an' you tell me if you can use it.

Grant me a mind that is not bored
That does not whimper, whine or sigh.
Don't let me worry overmuch
About the fussy thing called 'I'.
Help me keep a sense of humor, Lord,
Give me the grace to see a joke—

Then let me grasp much happiness from life
For passing it on to other folk.

Now ain't that nice?"

"Why Grandmaw, that's a lovely thought. Of course I can use it. I'm so glad you thought to bring it."

"Well, my stars, you was so nice to write Paw's 'Recipe for a Day' in your column last year, I jest thought mebber I could help you fill the space again this year, 'cause I know you don't write nuthin' educatin' nor stuff like that at Christmas time. What **DID** you write about anyway?"

"You'll laugh, Grandmaw. I told the folks about all the crazy things that might be used as planters."

"Oh, my stars and garters! You didn't go an' tell 'em about how I filled Paw's old straw hat with petunias, an' how they grew right plumb over the whole brim?"

"No, I didn't think of that one; and it looked so pretty too, hanging on your gate post last summer."

"Say, I gotta git back home, got an apple pie in the oven. Them Northern Spies you gave me sure are tasty in a pie. Paw loves his pie, you know. Well, run over fer a wedge of hot gingerbread and some coffee when you git that column buttoned up, an' I'll give you that new molasses cookie recipe. Sure is a humdinger — makes big, saucy cookies. Emmy give it to me, you know. Gotta run now, see you later."

"So long, Grandmaw. I'll be over in a little while." Hm-m-m . . . that IS a nice little verse of Grandmaw's. I believe I will use it. The old gal gets such a bang out of it when she can "pitch an inning or two." And it's not much to do for her, as long as my editor doesn't object.

Well, we are almost at the end of another year. My husband and I have made several trips through New England. It goes without saying that my Members' Handbook always goes along. It's so pleasant to look up members I have never met and stop for a short chat. Then you readers become more than just a name in a book. I

enjoy these brief visits. Did you ever observe that these African violets are exceptionally skilled in making strangers into neighbors?

Often I look up folk who have written to me, and in some cases, it's folk I have dropped in on before: sort of a second time around deal. This all adds to my riches from African violets. Truly these are fabulous plants. They offer so much more than a window full of beautiful blooms.

So to all of you whom I have met, and all of you with whom I have corresponded, and every other reader whom I consider a neighbor anyway . . . A Merry, Merry Christmas and a Wonderful New Year! May God shed His love and blessings on you and yours.

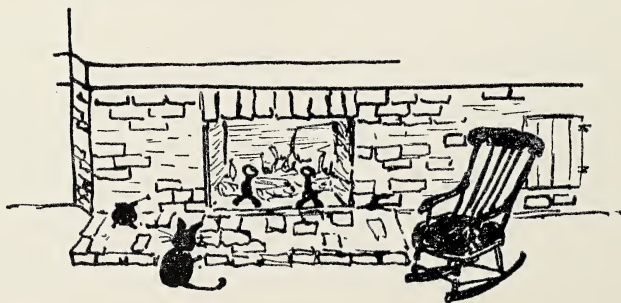
Attention — Team Mates!

Pick up your June copy, page 68, and read Mr. Wick's message. On page 69 you'll meet a brave and courageous gal. I had a letter from her, and believe me, her days are far from gay. You can't send her plants, but you could talk to her by way of a postage stamp. Make believe you are in her place and letters pour in from the United States. Wouldn't you get a lift? Remember I said our plants make strangers into neighbors.

So many of you readers write me such delightful letters about your plants: how you grow them, how they mutate, etc. Share your pleasure with Sybil Ward and you'll be doing a great job of being neighborly.

Grandmaw asked me to write this. She said, "Land sakes, all them members, if only half of them wrote letters it would be mighty fine. That little gal would like to see postmarks from different countries. Bless my soul — it ain't often folks git an opportunity like this. It's better than giving plants to sick folks. You just ask your editor to print your request. Tell her to leave out your column if she has to. It ain't important anyhow — an' THIS is!"

So here you are, readers. I've tossed the ball to you. Carry it for a touchdown and make a score that will have Grandmaw cheering herself hoarse. end



HAVE YOU TRIED LIMESTONE?

Lela M. Burton, Arkansas City, Kansas

I just finished reading Mrs. Dannemiller's article on Nature's Way in the June magazine. For several years I have been interested in giving my plants an organic growing soil. The recipe for the mix I use was given in my article which appeared in the September 1957 magazine. Also, the use of limewater was discussed.

During the winter of 1956-57 I was having trouble getting my plants to grow lush and with the proper color of foliage and bloom. They bloomed but the blossoms were not as large as they should have been. The foliage grew too compactly to make a lush looking plant. I wanted to enter some plants in a show the latter part of March, but it seemed hopeless at that time.

I was so troubled about it that I decided to have my soil mix tested. Each ingredient was tested separately and even the water I was using was tested as it had been in the cistern for quite some time and I feared that might have something to do with it. Everything tested neutral except the peat I was using, which was quite acid. I started using a weak limewater on my plants to counteract this acid condition. I used only one-fourth teaspoon to a large pail of cistern water, and used it every time I watered the plants. It was only a week before a change was seen in the plants. This was the first of February, and I now had hopes of entering something in the show. By show time, March 24th, I was thrilled beyond words as all the plants that I took to the show won ribbons, even the trophy for the best plant in the show.

Since that time I have been using a third cup of lime or limestone powder in my soil formula and have discontinued the limewater. Needless to say, my abundance of bloom and beautiful foliage is most satisfying.

I have discovered something else that I would like to share with you concerning outdoor gardening.

This spring I planted a sweet gum tree, which is new in our area. It is a very beautiful, symmetrical growing tree, with star shaped leaves which turn brilliant colors in the late fall. I was constantly wiping spider webs from it and also from a young holly and a young evergreen tree that I was growing. Down the street a stone house was being constructed and I noticed piles of chips and dust lying there where the stones were being trimmed. I stopped and inquired about getting some for my trees since I had read that they made very good mulch. I was given permission to get all that I wanted. First I took one bucketful home with me and dug the grass away from the sweet gum tree and poured the whole

bucketful of limestone chips around the tree. That day there were no spider webs! So I went back and got several buckets of the limestone chips and put one bucketful around each of the other two young trees. No more webs on them! It has been more than a month and the spiders have not returned. The trees are growing beautifully!

I applied Hybro-Tite around all of my crape myrtles and evergreens, as well as using it in my flower box and garden this spring, and have had the healthiest looking vegetation that I have ever seen. The myrtles are very heavy with buds at this time and the geraniums in the flower box are a great mass of bloom and beautiful green foliage. In spite of the fact that this spring was one when insects were abundant, I have not been bothered with them at all. Spraying was eliminated completely.

Next year I will have the courage to make a rose garden, for now I know that limestone chips and Hybro-Tite have solved my troubles.

And, most of all, those lovely African violets that give so much pleasure the year around will continue to flourish with the limestone treatment that they love so much in their natural habitat.
end

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A Name Is Born

Bonnie Ann Hartenbower, Springdale, Arkansas

"These African violet names! Holy Cow! Say, why doesn't someone name a violet 'Holy Cow', anyway? Where do they get all these fancy names? Tell me, how did T-V JAZZ get that name—what is there about it that would make one think of Jazz?"

"Fingernail polish," I replied blithely.

"Fingernail polish! T-V Jazz! That makes sense for you! Just what is the connection, if you won't think me unbearably ignorant?"

I explained that when I was naming the T-V Series for days I had carried around a little notebook and jotted down names flashing into my mind that seemed descriptive. At intervals, I culled out the too-long and the less appealing names until finally I had all of the T-V's named but one — a frilled dark blue double. I just could not think of anything that seemed right for it. I wanted something short and snappy. Later as I was walking up our business street and passed a drug store window there were big placards announcing a new fingernail polish — Jazz Red. I stopped in my tracks — Jazz — JAZZ! Just what I wanted! I hurried home and stuck a label in the dark blue double — its name was born — T-V JAZZ.

How violets get their names can sometimes be quite interesting.

TAKE BETTY BOOP. It is a huge single creamy-pink, held very high above the foliage; I bought it from the Lyndon Lyons. At last I had it ready for release but could not think of a title I liked for it. A lady came in the greenhouse with a little four-year-old girl, genuinely interested in violets; she gravely informed me she had her own plants. Her mother exclaimed over the beautiful creamy-pink — such large blooms and held so high — what was its name? Not named yet? What a pity! I asked her to suggest a good name. The little bitty collector pipped right up:

"I think Betty Boop would be a good name for it."

Surprised, her mother and I laughed merrily; I responded quickly:

"You are right. Betty Boop would be a wonderful name for it. I'm going to get a glass of water and you can christen those plants for me. . . . Now, here is the water. You can stand on my typing stool here — now, dip your fingers in this water, sprinkle over the plants, and say: 'I christen you Betty Boop.'"

The cute little miss carefully dipped little fingers in the glass, held her little tongue precisely between her little teeth, sprinkled the plants, and christened them Betty Boop in earnest solemnity. An elder could not have done better.

PURPLE RAJAH originated by Colonel Bert Rosenbaum, U. S. Air Force, was named by him about the time he received orders to Morocco; I think it possible the Morocco transfer influenced him in the selection of the Rajah part of the name. Colonel Rosenbaum spent most of a day with my violets and me before he left for Morocco; he wanted to take some of the newest varieties with him. I see on Page 46 of the March 1958 issue of our African Violet Magazine an article by Colonel Rosenbaum on growing conditions in Morocco, so his interest in violet culture is still enthusiastic.

LADY ELAINE I acquired from Naomi's African Violets, Brockport, New York, and it is one of the most beautiful bicolors and one of my favorites. It has beautiful open girl foliage and a big bloom with the same shadings as Sir Lancelot; since it was the beautiful maiden Elaine who hopelessly loved Sir Lancelot, Naomi could not have chosen a more appropriate name for this beautiful dark-toned miss with the Sir Lancelot aspiration.

UNCLE BOB was a name dearly bestowed. Mr. R. A. Brown, Newnan, Georgia, was working for an improved strain of pinks at the time of his death; later, his pink seedlings came into bloom. Employees of the big Brown Greenhouses, who had affectionately called Mr. Brown "Uncle Bob," selected their favorite of all the new pinks, and in memory of their beloved "boss," they named this fruit of his careful hybridizing work **UNCLE BOB**. The newer **DOUBLE UNCLE BOB** carries on the memorial for this fine southern gentleman who so loved to work with African violets. Incidentally, I missed dear little Mrs. Brown at the last Convention.

Don Wilson, Indiana, allowed his little nephew to name his favorite in a bench of new seedlings — you can guess, then, how Wilson's **UNCLE DON** came about! I wonder if Wilson's new and fine **COON VALLEY** indicates that might be the name of the beautiful valley in which their greenhouses are located?

Bob Anderson's Tonkadale Greenhouses are located in former Indian country and there are lots of Indian names scattered about in that part of Minnesota. Mr. Anderson, I note, carries on the Indian traditions by giving lots of his gorgeous creations Indian names; I also note he favors very short titles, and he honors his State by using lots of typical Minnesota names.

I imagine Mary Meeds named most of the late Mr. Baxter's prodigious output, which gave her an equally prodigious task. She says she sticks to the simple descriptive, but lots of times her names give me a chuckle; I expect to see on her list any day Flopsy Mopsy and Wittle Wabbits.

(Mary is such a warm friendly person she won't mind what I say about her!)

I have wondered about the name MARK ROBERT which Lyndon and Ruth Lyon gave to their big white star with the blue shading — such a beauty. I meant to ask if it was for a little grandson or some very dear friend. Ruth writes me they should have some big stars with frilled green edgings coming along pretty soon now — won't it be fun to name THOSE!

Mrs. Hasenyager of Tecumseh, Nebraska, could not have thought of a name more suitable than HOLLY HALO for her delicious light blue with the delicate border. Her letters had sounded so youthful with such sprightly verve that I was expecting to meet a bride; instead she had snowy hair and was crippled by a thirty year siege of arthritis. We found her with violets tastefully arranged in front of a tapestry and her camera set up; she was snapping pictures of her plants for her own enjoyment. She used violets as a form of physical therapy, too; she explained she kept them all over the upstairs, so she would just HAVE to pull herself up the steps every day to look after them! She just HAD to rise above that old arthritis! She bubbled over with enthusiasm on many subjects, and she and Grover had so much delight in her collection of antique china and porcelains that I could hardly pull them back to violets!

PASSION I acquired from Maxine Mason of Siloam Springs, Arkansas, it being a big double in lavender tones tipped with purple. Maxine said she thought of Purple Passion but shortened it to only the single word because after all, it is more lavender than purple. Her double dark blue on girl foliage, that took the BEST seedling rosette at the Kansas City Show this spring, she named SULTRY SILOAM. The "Sultry" suggesting the dark blue color and the girl foliage; and a big reddish double not in bloom to take to the Kansas City Show, she named SILOAM SPLENDOR. Her home town of Siloam Springs indicates why she included Siloam as a part of her titles. I have bought both these outright from Maxine and hope to release them next spring.

Grace Eyerdom is the official "namer" for all the new beauties created by her husband. (I am told Mr. Eyerdom is the hybridizer at Grangers, but I'll bet Grace suggests some of the crosses now and then!) She does a bang-up job. I often marvel that season after season, she can come up with such descriptive titles so perfectly suitable. No use trying to name them, for where could one start — or stop? But I know you will agree with me that they are always distinctively designated.

Sometimes a name can indicate the rugged frustrations of hybridizing work. For instance, I have been working for years for the impossible yellow. Never could I get anything fit for a bean from such crosses. To my surprise, one beauty did emerge at last from my efforts — a pinkish, creamy-white, fully double, nice center, with beautifully frilled perky petals — a really desir-



McTavish



Dorothy Jean



Aletha Martin

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Week's Convention Winners	P.T. Stardust
Vallin's Fringed Raspberry	Lyon's Love Knot
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DORIS' AFRICAN VIOLET CORNER

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SEASON'S GREETINGS

Spring list February 1959

FERNE FOR AFRICAN VIOLETS

FERNE V. KELLAR

827 N. Main St. Harrisonburg, Va.

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able variety, I think, that I now am ready to release. One visitor said: "You can be proud of that; that's a love!"

"Yes, but considering all my disappointments along the way, it's been a thorny love!" I don't even know why I made such an odd remark, but I immediately retorted to my own self: "Say, why wouldn't that be a good name for that? THORNY LOVE!" And that name stuck.

KASSELETTE was named by a gentleman who commented it had a royal look about it, whatever that might mean. At my invitation to name it, he mused aloud Queen this and Princess that, and then said: "I have it—begin it with a K, and just call it Kasselette." He spelled it for me; it seemed to me effective so I approved his suggestion.

Don't ask me why I named my new lavender double PONCHITA; I was just scribbling, and that came out. I don't even know what suggested it to me; at least, it's different.

I think BLUE J is a very good name for Mary Hines' (K. C., Mo.) new powder-blue frilled single with much foliage; it is a beauty. Mary is the one who gave us Ruffled Daydream and Sheer Delight; and BLUE J is her latest.

A title for a Series can require a lot of thought; or an idea may pop out by chance. We were returning from Beaumont, Texas, after buying a number of plants from Margaret Vallin (Mrs. George S.); I wanted a name for these plants to set them apart as a Series. All day as we traveled along, I jotted down notes madly, but not a single notation brought the proper inner "click" of "Ah, that's it!" I commented to Grover about the modesty, almost humbleness, and the honest sincerity of Margaret Vallin; then I said: "Well, we have Vallin friends in Illinois; Vallins in Oklahoma; and now, we know Texas Vallins." Grover glanced in my direction: "You know what you just did, don't you?" "I have done nothing. What do you mean?" "Well, you just named your new plants, that's all." "I did? Well, for goodness sake, what did I say? What did I name them?"

"The Texas-Vallin Series—the T-V's. It's a natural!"

I quit jotting, for the inner click came with impact.

What name could be more suitable than the MULTIFLORAS for those heavy bloomers? And the Tennessee Series by Quixie Nichols are quite worthy to bear the name of that beautiful State. Tennessee Debutante is a lovely bicolor that can take its place at the head of any cotillion of violet debutantes. You can tell I love the bicolors!

Speaking of bicolors, BONFIRE is a beauty that is well named. I could not think of a name more appropriate for it; and certainly Fischer's FIRE DANCE is well named.

You will know that I named T-V PINK MARGARET for Margaret Vallin; and the name T-V VALLINPINK speaks for itself; T-V SMOOTHIE is such a smooth all-over shade of

even pink—and incidentally, I am receiving a veritable storm of letters from across the nation that T-V Smoothie is becoming the heaviest blooming, most magnificent pink in big collections! The avalanche of mail regarding it has surprised me. You see I knew it all the time. But across the country, they're just finding it out. T-V Smoothie is one blooming critter!

Sometimes names do not seem to me to be appropriate at all. For instance, why was LACY LAVENDER so named? It has a plain foliage; it has a plain double lavender bloom, non-frilled. There is nothing lacy about it. Of course, it is a terrific bloomer; maybe they felt just its prolific head of bloom entitled it to be called "lacy." If you want one of the bloomingest of violets, be sure to get LACY LAVENDER, but don't expect any signs of laciness about it.

Another inappropriate name, it seems to me, is SNOWY PRINCESS. This title suggests a white girl of some type, to me, whereas it is a beautiful he-man red bloom rising from variegated foliage. A Snowy Princess went Supreme for me, and I quickly took the opportunity to express my own feelings regarding it by naming my Amazon SNOWBOUND PRINCE; the "Snow-bound" gives the suggestion of the variegated foliage at the base, and the handsome Prince is in the form of the big red blooms emerging from the snowbound situation. Now, I do not know who named Snowy Princess and I hope they will not care that I consider the name inappropriate; I will let them pick any of my names to pieces any time! Help yourself!

It is lots of fun to name violets; and let me suggest that you carry a little notebook around with you and make it a hobby to jot down good names as they occur to you. It makes a fascinating game.

Of course there is one little thing you have to keep in mind—your selected name may be already in use. If the Registrar writes you that sad piece of news, don't let your spirits sag too low—just hurry up and think of a nickname!

end

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Evelyn Hall, Sacramento, California

When an African violet has become old and is leggy or has grown a long neck, try my easy method before discarding it or cutting it off at the top of the soil for rerooting.

Tip the pot on its side and very carefully remove the ball of earth from the pot. Do not disturb the roots any more than you can help. Then with a sharp knife slice off some of the bottom soil and roots. If the plant is crooked in the pot or lopsided, cut the soil mass at an angle so that when the ball of earth is replaced in the pot it can be made straight by filling in the soil, in the pot bottom at an angle too. If the plant is one-sided remove enough leaves to balance it. Fill in with soil at the top of the pot to the desired level. Your plant should go on blooming.

This treatment is not as drastic as cutting the plant off and rerooting it. end

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TRANSPARENT PLASTIC POTS

Mrs. F. Wade, London, England

I have been using and testing the new transparent plastic pots since April and I think they are very good.

In one respect they are the answer to over-watering because you can see if the plant really needs watering. But, more important, the water is not absorbed by the pot, the plant gets it. This applies to feeding as well.

These clear plastic pots are very light in weight and look really smart and attractive.

end

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HILLHOUSE VIOLETRY

Fresh Cut Leaves By Mail 25 - 50¢ None Higher

Plants At House 35¢ up

Over 400 Varieties — Old and Newest

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616 Columbia Street Burlington, Iowa

2½ Blocks west of Library

Warmest of

Season's Greetings

To All Of You

A SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

This past summer, we signed an agreement with

Leonard "Bud" K. Brewer which gives us sole rights to all his ("Bud's") releases of African Violet hybrids.

We are most happy about this arrangement and lists will be issued from time to time as plants become available. Rooted Cuttings will still be our specialty but we will also offer small plants in 2" pots.

All Mail Orders will be taken care of to the best of our ability. However, if you can come to our greenhouse on our afternoons at home, we will be most happy to take care of your wants.

AT HOME

THURSDAY and SUNDAY

AFTERNOONS ONLY

TAY-BOW

AFRICAN VIOLETS

Caro R#4 Michigan

1 Mile N.E. of Caro on M81



MY VIOLET TREE

Cora E. Fuller, Lynchburg, Virginia

I looked through the catalogues for a violet tree That would hold a few violets for display In my window on a wintry day. I found a few, it is very true, They sold for dollars, twenty-two. This I just could not afford, So I let my idea go by the board.

Then in my attic one day I found A hall tree, square, not round. I could see it turn, as I looked, Into a tree like the one in the book.

I hurried to the hardware store, Bought brackets of different length, Bought wooden bowls to hold the plants, Tested the hall tree for strength. I used long brackets at window sill height, Twelve inches higher, I placed four more, Four shorter ones were fastened near the top, My tree will now hold nearly a score.

I stained it all a mahogany hue, Placed my plants in the wooden bowls, With a plant on top drooping gracefully. What more could you ask of a violet tree?

PLANTS

LEAVES

CHOICE NEW VIOLETS

Caravan Masterpiece
Caravan Sultan
Torchy
Redderness
Black Magic Supreme
Coronation Dbl. White
Blue Nocturne Supreme
Blushing Supreme
Moderatre
Melody Air

Q. T. Explorer
Lady "K"
Anastasia
Blue Empress
Pink Amour
White Gold
Black Cherry
Midnight
Holly's Edge
Kimberly

15¢ for List and Coupon

Open by Appointment

QUALITY VIOLET HOUSE

2021 Union S. E., CH 3-6651, Grand Rapids 7, Mich.

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

DETROIT CONVENTION

APRIL 16, 17, 18, 1959

STATLER HILTON HOTEL

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

CALL FOR 1959 MEETING

The Annual Business Meeting of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., will be held on Saturday, April 18, 1959, at 9:00 A.M. at the Statler Hilton Hotel, Detroit, Michigan, to transact the following business.

- 1—To hear the report of Officers, Directors and Committees of the Society.
- 2—To hold the election of Officers and Directors.
- 3—To transact any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

Sincerely,

H. G. Harvey, President

AMATEUR SHOW

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Entries must be made between 2:30 — 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 15, 1959, and Thursday, April 16, 1959, between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Judging will be from 4:00 — 6:00 p.m.
2. Plants arriving too late to be entered will be shown for exhibition only.
3. Only healthy clean plants will be accepted, and must have been in the hands of the exhibitors at least three months.
4. An exhibitor can enter only one plant of each variety in the Classes 1 through 25.
5. Each variety entered must be correctly named or subject to correction by the classification committee.
6. The Society will afford all possible protection to exhibits, but will not be responsible for any loss.
7. All plants entered in Classes 1 through 25 must be single crown plants.
8. Only blue ribbon winners will be eligible to receive special or Society awards.
9. If an entry is not entered by the owner, the name of such person making the entry must be on the back of the entry tag.
10. For uniformity all pots must be covered with aluminum foil. Exhibitors are to print their names on adhesive tape and attach to the bottom of foil covered pot.
11. All entries in both amateur and commercial exhibits may be removed from 11:00 p.m. — 12:00 p.m. Friday, April 17, 1959, and from 8:00 a.m. — 10:00 a.m. Saturday, April 18, 1959.
12. The show will be judged on the merit basis, and the decision of the judges will be final. Only qualified judges of the Society will be permitted to judge.
13. All amateur members of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., will be permitted to enter Class 27 to compete for the Society Gold and Purple Awards. Each of these plants will be point scored by the judges, and must score 90 or more points each.
14. All club year books entered in Class 37 must be sent to Mrs. A. C. Foster, 4474 Gladwin Avenue, Detroit 14, Michigan, not later than April 12th, 1959. These books must be no larger than 5 x 8 inches, being the same books as all club members receive, and once entered become the property of the Society and will not be returned. It is not compulsory for clubs entering year books to be Affiliated with the National Society.

SHOW SCHEDULE

"AFRICAN VIOLETS IN THE MOTOR CITY"

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

STATLER HILTON HOTEL

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

APRIL 16, 17, 1959

AMATEUR DIVISION

SECTION I Specimen plants, single blossoms, (Classes 1 through 25 must be single crown named African violets).

- CLASS 1.** Dark Blues or Purples
2. Medium Blues
3. Light Blues
4. Reds to Violets
5. Lavenders and Orchids
6. Bi-Colors
7. Two-Tones (variegated blossoms)
8. Pinks
9. Whites

SECTION II Specimen plants, double blossoms

- CLASS 10.** Purples and Blues
11. Reds and Orchids
12. Pinks
13. Whites
14. Bi-Colors, Variegateds and Multicolored

SECTION 111 Specimen plants, duPonts, Amazons and Supremes, double blossoms

- CLASS 15.** Whites
16. Pinks
17. Purples and Blues
18. Reds and Orchids
19. Variegated, Bi-Color or Multicolored

SECTION IV Specimen plants, duPonts, Amazons and Supremes, single blossoms

- CLASS 20.** White
21. Pink
22. Purples and Blues
23. Variegated, Bi-Colors and Multicolored
24. Reds and Orchids

SECTION V May be single or double blossoms

- CLASS 25.** Novelties (albinos, variegated foliage, miniatures, etc.)
26. Specimen seedlings (never exhibited before at a National Convention show)
27. Collection of three registered different named varieties single crown plants. (See Rule 13)
28. Specimen plant African violet species (such as *S. Grotei*, *S. tongwensis*, etc.)
29. Specimen plant Gesneriaceae Family (achimenes, episcias, gloxinias, etc.)

SECTION VI Arrangements

- CLASS 30.** "From an Ocean Garden." Other foliage permitted. Size not to exceed 12" x 12". African violet blossoms must predominate.
31. An arrangement suggesting the theme of the show, "African Violets in the Motor City."
32. "Childhood Memories." Other flowers and foliage permitted. Also accessories permitted. African violet blossoms must predominate.
33. African violet plant or plants in unusual containers such as driftwood, silver, pottery, glass, bubble bowls, etc. (Must be planted in container.)
34. "Cup and saucer arrangement." Other flowers and foliage permitted. African violet blossoms must predominate.
35. "Corsages." Other foliage permitted.
36. "Around the World." African violet planted in container from Italy, Germany, England, Japan, etc.

SECTION VII Year Books

- CLASS 37.** Year Books (See Rule 14)

SCHEDULE AND AWARDS FOR COMMERCIAL EXHIBITING

CLASS 1

All exhibits to be judged individually. Blue first, Red second and White third.

CLASS 2—Horticultural Perfection:

Best grown group of plants either new or old varieties not less than 15 plants.

Blue Rosette first, Red Rosette second, White Rosette third.

CLASS 3

Best staged exhibit.

Blue Rosette first, Red Rosette second, White Rosette third.

CLASS 4

Seedlings actually hybridized by exhibitor or released rights given exhibitor and not previously exhibited or judged.

Blue first, Red second and White third.

CLASS 5

Sport or Mutant to have been discovered by exhibitor or persons connected with business. Not previously judged or exhibited.

CLASS 6

Only winners in Class 4 and 5 to participate in Class 6.

Blue Rosette first, Red Rosette second and White Rosette third.

SILVER TROPHY

The Commercial Silver Trophy will be awarded to the best Commercial Exhibit of African violets in the Convention Show.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE COMMERCIAL EXHIBITS CONTACT THE CHAIRMAN:

MRS. JOHN A. LANDAKER

2339 GRIGG AVE.

CINCINNATI 7, OHIO

SOCIETY AWARDS

THE SILVER CUP of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., will be awarded to the best registered named variety in specimen Classes 1 through 24 of the amateur division.

AWARD OF MERIT RIBBON will be given to the best registered named variety in the specimen Classes 1 through 24.

HONORABLE MENTION RIBBON will be given to the third best registered named variety in the specimen Classes 1 through 24.

GOLD RIBBON AWARD or first award may be given to the best collection of three registered named varieties of African violets exhibited in the National Convention show. (See Rule 13)

PURPLE RIBBON AWARD or second award of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., may be given to the second best collection of three registered named varieties of African violets exhibited in the National Convention show.

COMMERCIAL SILVER CUP to the best commercial exhibit.

SPECIAL AWARDS -- AMATEUR DIVISION

ALMA WRIGHT CASH AWARD of \$25.00 for best specimen of the New Alma Wright African violet.

BEHNKE NURSERIES AWARD \$50.00 on their introductions; \$25.00 to the person scoring the highest number of blues or firsts, \$15.00 to the second highest, \$10.00 to the third highest, on the following Behnke introductions: Sweet Memory, My Maryland, Fantasy, Calico, Sonja, Finlandia, Floradora, Lady Constance.

DAVIDSON COUNTY SOCIETY OF AFRICAN VIOLET CLUBS, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE AWARD of \$25.00 for the best specimen plant in single pink. Class 8.

FLOWER GROWER STERLING SILVER PLATE AWARD FOR AFFILIATED CHAPTER LEADERSHIP.

1. This award to be given to any individual member of an Affiliated Chapter for outstanding leadership in promoting all phases of the Chapter's activities in accordance with the objectives of the African Violet Society of America, Inc.
2. The Affiliated Chapter shall submit to the Chairman of Awards, Mrs. Z. C. Layson, Maysville, Ky., the candidate's name, address and list of accomplishments not later than January 1, 1959.

GRANGER GARDENS AWARD \$25.00 to exhibitor with the three best specimens of the following Granger introductions: White Madonna, Black Magic, Pale Waverly, Cavalier, Rose Wing, Blue Nocturne.

H. G. HARVEY \$25.00 CASH AWARD to be given to the Canadian member whose specimen plant has traveled the longest distance to the National Show.

MADISON GARDEN CASH AWARD \$50.00. \$25.00 for the best specimen of Mona Lisa, \$25.00 for best specimen of Pink Chiffon.

MRS. SAM NICHOLS AWARD \$25.00. \$15.00 for best specimen of Tennessee Pink. \$10.00 for second best specimen of Tennessee Pink.

POPULAR GARDENING MAGAZINE SWEEPSTAKES AWARD for most blue ribbons in Classes 1 through 25. Sterling Silver Bowl.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE CROSS HYBRID AWARD sponsored by the Research Committee of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. Members or nonmembers of the Society will be awarded \$25.00 for the best entry of a plant or plants, resulting from a cross of any genus of the Gesneria family, like achimenes or gloxinias on the genus Saintpaulia (African violet). This exhibit to be judged by the Research Committee and must give visual indication that it is a successful cross genus hybrid showing some characteristics of the other Gesneria hybrid.

SELECT VIOLET HOUSE, MARY MEEDS — \$25.00 Award. \$15.00 for best specimen of African violet, So Sweet. \$10.00 award for second best specimen, So Sweet.

SMITH POTTING SOIL COMPANY AWARD. \$25.00 to most outstanding seedling or mutation never before exhibited in a National Convention show.

STIM-U-PLANT LABORATORIES PLAQUE AND \$50.00 AWARD for best registered named variety in specimen Classes 1 through 24. Plaque and \$25.00 for best specimen plant in dark blue or purple. Plaque and \$25.00 for best specimen plant in reds to violets. Plaque and \$25.00 for best specimen plant in white.

TINARI GREENHOUSES AWARD \$25.00. African violet gift certificate to the person with the most firsts on the Tinari "ribbon winners" at the Rochester Convention: Pink Geneva, Red Glow, Helen Van Pelt Wilson, Star Gazer, Monaco Pink, Blue Tango, White Tango, Geneva Wonder.

TAY-BOW AFRICAN VIOLETS \$50.00 on the following: \$25.00 for the best specimen of Bud's Kimberly and \$25.00 for the best specimen of Bud's Pink Begonia.

TONKADALE GREENHOUSES \$50.00 CASH SURPRISE AWARD to be given to a National African Violet Society member at the banquet session of the 1959 Convention. Previous winners not eligible. (Not a door prize)

TUBE CRAFT FLORAL CART AWARD for the three best specimen plants: 1 true purple, 1 pink, and 1 white, any variety scoring the highest points. Each plant must score a blue ribbon. These plants to be entered in Classes 1 through 24.

VIOLET TREASURE HOUSE \$25.00 CASH AWARD to the exhibitor winning the most blue ribbons on the T-V Series varieties. If as many as 20 or more blue ribbons are received the award will be \$35.00.

YEAR BOOK AWARDS given by the Society Librarian for the best year books of any African violet club. First prize \$5.00, second, \$3.00, third \$2.00. (See Rule 13.)

NOTICE TO CANADIAN EXHIBITORS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE
PLANT QUARANTINE DIVISION

404 Custom House
Detroit 26, Michigan

September 29, 1958

To Canadian Exhibitors of The African Violet Society of America:

It is expected that many Canadian growers of African violets will wish to exhibit plants at the annual show in Detroit, Michigan. Since there are specific procedures which must be followed to avoid transportation of insects and plant diseases from one locality or country to another, we are listing these requirements so that entry into the United States can be made with the least delay to the plants and the shippers.

First, each shipment must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate issued by an official of the Plant Protection Division, Canadian Department of Agriculture. Offices of this Division are located in Edmonton, Alta.; Estevan, Sask.; Guelph, Ont.; Halifax, N. S.; Lethbridge, Alta.; London, Ont.; Montreal, Que.; Niagara Falls, Ont.; Ottawa, Ont.; Quebec City, Que.; St. John, N. B.; St. Johns, Newf.; Summerland (Penticton), B. C.; Toronto, Ont.; Vancouver, B. C.; Victoria, B. C.; Windsor, Ont.; and Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Second, a notice of arrival (Form PQ-910) must be submitted in duplicate to the United States Customs for each shipment. These are usually prepared at the time of entry, but, to avoid delays, we are providing a set which you may prepare in advance.

We suggest that you ask your nearest Plant Protection Division Officer about requirements you must meet when returning the plants to Canada.

J. Guy Lewis, Assistant Supervisor
Atlantic Region

POINTED CONVENTION POINTERS

POINTED POINTER NO. 1—Please bring your African Violet Society membership card with you to Detroit. If you don't, you will be so, so so-o-o-ry. With only one exception, mentioned further on, only members of the African Violet Society may register for, and attend the Convention. So the girls at the registration desks must know that you are a member of the Society before they deliver the registration tickets to you. The only way they can determine this is by seeing your membership card. Their motto is the same as that of the old-time Chinese laundryman — "No tickee, no washee."

If your membership card has been lost, write to the Society folks in Knoxville for a duplicate. Write early enough so that they can get this duplicate to you before you leave for Detroit.

POINTED POINTER NO. 2—Only one person may register on one membership card. There is one, and only one exception to this rule. Husband and wife may both register on either's membership card. Mother and daughter? NO. Two sisters? NO. Member and boy friend? NO. Two persons have to be married — and to each other at that — to get in on the same card.

However, a person who is not a member may beat the rap very easily by stepping over to the "New Member's" desk right there in the Hotel, forking over four bucks and becoming a member right then and there. Then he or she may immediately and triumphantly register for the Convention.

POINTED POINTER NO. 3—When husband and wife register for the entire Convention, and also sign up for all of the special meals listed on the program, where the entire Society sits down to eat together, the financial transaction involved looks like this:

	Convention Registration	Society Meals	Total
Member	\$5.00	\$15.00	\$20.00
Spouse	.00	15.00	15.00
Total	\$5.00	\$30.00	\$35.00

POINTED POINTER NO. 4—Members who wish to visit Canada before or after the Convention should come prepared. Canada will be more than delighted to welcome them, and a trip through Canada is very well worthwhile, but nevertheless there is an International Boundary to be crossed which must be treated with decent respect. If a group is traveling by automobile, the only documentary requirement at the border is the certificate of ownership of the car. This is the paper you receive each year when you buy your new license plates.

If you are traveling by public conveyance, it is best to have your birth certificate along. This is the only portable thing that most of us have to prove our American citizenship. Without it, you may go from the United States to Canada very readily, but on the return trip you run the chance of being inconvenienced and perhaps somewhat delayed at the border if you are unable to definitely and quickly show that you are an American citizen.

POINTED POINTER NO. 5—The Society hopes very much that a large number of Canadian grown African violets will be entered in the Detroit show. To transport these plants across the border, two documents are required. One of these is the "phytosanitary certificate," originating with the Canadian authorities; the other is the "notice of arrival," originating with the Americans. Mr. J. Guy Lewis, of the Detroit office of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, has very kindly written a letter for us on the subject, which you will find printed on another page of this Magazine. If this letter still leaves some of our Canadian friends doubtful about the detailed procedure in their particular case, Mrs. Ronald Reaume, our Convention Chairman in Detroit, whose address there is 16508 Fairmount Drive, will be glad to have one of her staff answer any letters you send to her on this subject.

The fundamental is that the Society is eager and anxious to have as many Canadian entries in our Detroit show as it is humanly possible to have and every one of us wants to do all that we can to enable our Canadian growers to attain this objective.

POINTED POINTER NO. 6—And finally, please send your registrations in early. The fact that there is a deadline date up to which advance registrations will be accepted does not mean that you should organize a contest to see who can skin closest to that date without slipping over it. Early registration helps everyone. The Detroit folk know better what to plan for, and the people registering get better service with less chance for errors or slip ups. Early registration enables everyone to proceed carefully, peacefully and calmly, as contrasted to the nervous excitement and rather ungraceful scrambling that last minute registration produces.

See you in Detroit!

H. G. Harvey, President

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.
CONVENTION AND ANNUAL MEETING

STATLER HILTON HOTEL
DETROIT, MICHIGAN

APRIL 16, 17, 18, 1959

All rooms with radio or TV and air conditioned

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Requests for hotel accommodations for the Convention should be made to —

STATLER HILTON HOTEL

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

PLEASE RESERVE — Single _____, Double _____, Twin Bed _____ Room _____

At \$ _____ per day, for Arrival _____ time _____ M.

I will check out _____ time _____ M.

Single Room with Shower — \$6.50 to \$11.00

Single Room with Tub and Shower — \$11.50 to \$13.50

Double, with Shower — \$12.00 to \$13.00

Double, with Tub and Shower — \$13.50 to \$16.50

Twin, with Shower — \$12.50 to \$14.00

Twin, with Tub and Shower — \$14.50 to \$19.50

Suites (Small) for one \$25.00; for two \$28.50

(Large) for one or two \$36.00

Extra Guest \$3.00

If a room is not available at rate requested, reservation will be made at next available rate. Reservation held until 6 p.m. unless hotel is notified of later arrival hour. All reservations must be returned no later than two weeks prior to Convention date.

Detach on Dotted Line

**AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.
CONVENTION AND ANNUAL MEETING**

**STATLER HILTON HOTEL
DETROIT, MICHIGAN**

APRIL 16, 17, 18, 1959

ADVANCE REGISTRATION BLANK

Name _____

Address _____

Registration for the entire Convention, including the Show, Thursday Dinner Meeting, Friday Luncheon Meeting and Friday Banquet Meeting is \$20.00.

Please send your reservation in before March 20, 1959. If you cannot attend the entire Convention, please check below the meetings you will attend. We MUST know definitely how many to prepare for. One registration admits both HUSBAND AND WIFE when either is a member.

_____ Registration fee for the entire Convention	\$5.00
_____ Registration fee for one day only	\$3.00
_____ Registration fee for one single meeting	\$1.50
_____ Thursday Dinner Meeting	\$5.25
_____ Friday Luncheon Meeting	\$3.75
_____ Friday Banquet Meeting	\$6.00

SIGN and send your reservation in not later than March 20, 1959, to the registration chairman: MRS. EDWARD GAWEL, 6810 THEISEN ST., DEARBORN 1, MICHIGAN.

Reservations will not be honored without remittance. Please assist the committee and simplify registration by sending a check or money order with your reservation. Your tickets, badge, program, etc., will be ready on your arrival. If circumstances make it necessary to change your plans, contact the registration chairman before April 6, 1959, and your money will be refunded.

MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

Detach on Dotted Line

SPECIAL MENU NOTICE

The management of the Statler Hilton Hotel requests that if fish is desired for Friday meals that you check this notice and mail it to Mrs. Edward Gawel with your reservation.

_____ Fish for Friday Luncheon Meeting and Banquet
_____ Special Diabetic Menu

Detach on Dotted Line

TOUR

No organized tour under the auspices of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. will be offered at the Detroit Convention. Tour information will be available at the time of registration.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Bess Greeley, Chairman, Chicago, Illinois

Before a report is given, the Chairman would like to clear up the situation regarding the Office of Membership Secretary, inasmuch as many letters have been received asking why the same person holds this office year after year. The Membership File is the property of the African Violet Magazine, and the membership is taken care of by the staff in the office of the Magazine. Considering what took place at Pittsburgh, and inasmuch as the By-Laws of the Society call for a Membership Secretary (which office is not needed), the Editor of Publications will need to fill that office until such time as the Office of Membership Secretary is removed by the By-Laws Committee.

The new slate of directors to be elected at the Business Meeting to be held in Detroit, Michigan, in 1959, is chosen as follows:

We go to Canada for a member to come on the Board as a Director.

Regarding what your Chairman calls the second section of the United States, this section will not be heard from as we are trying to bring the other sections more in line.

For the East Coast, we did want to go to Washington, D. C., but after two rejections we went to North Carolina. Next year we will consider Virginia or Maryland.

In section two, next year we will consider Wisconsin, and then Mississippi, before the round of this section is started again.

In section three, Iowa is selected for this year, and Arkansas will be considered next year.

For the West Coast, the state of Washington is chosen for this year, and next year we would like to go to Montana, Utah or Idaho.

Won't some of the African Violet Society members, who are attending the Detroit Convention, please introduce themselves to some of the members of the Nominating Committee?

As we now have a Forty-Ninth State, which is Alaska, this state will be part of the West Coast section. Welcome, Alaska, to the African Violet Society, as a state. end

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE ON OFFICERS FOR 1959

President, H. G. Harvey, Georgia

1st Vice President, Mrs. James B. Carey, Tennessee

2nd Vice President, Joseph D. Schulz, Indiana

Recording Secretary, Mrs. Edward Jones, Texas

Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Norma M. Bowers, Illinois

Membership Secretary, Mrs. Robert Wright, Tennessee

Treasurer, Mrs. Arthur Radtke, Ohio

Board of Directors:

Mrs. R. R. Blackburn, N. C.

Mrs. Vernor B. Watters, Canada

Mrs. Dean Kuntz, Iowa

Mrs. Orpha Zoa Hall, Washington

Nominating Committee: Mrs. Claude E. Greeley, Chairman, Floyd L. Johnson, Wm. Carter, Joseph D. Schulz, Mrs. Z. C. Layson.

Detach on Dotted Line

Detach this proxy and mail to JOSEPH D. SCHULZ, 5206 STAUGHTON DRIVE, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA.

PROXY

The undersigned, member of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., does hereby constitute and appoint JOSEPH D. SCHULZ, MRS. EDWARD JONES and MRS. MARTIN WANGBERG, or any one or more of them, the true and lawful substitute, attorney and proxy (with full power of substitution and revocation) of the undersigned, for, and in the name, place and stead of, the undersigned, to vote with all the powers which the undersigned would be entitled to exercise, if personally present at the annual meeting of the members of said corporation to be held on April _____, 1959, or at any adjournment of such meeting, upon any matter coming before such meeting or adjournment, and does hereby revoke all proxies heretofore given by the undersigned as a member of said corporation.

Signed at _____, this _____ day of _____, 19_____.

Member _____ Address _____

Witness _____ Address _____

TELL YOU WHAT

NEW MEMBERSHIPS and RENEWALS — should be sent to the treasurer, Myrtle Radtke, P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tennessee. Make all checks payable to the African Violet Society of America, Inc.

NEW MEMBERSHIPS and RENEWALS of AFFILIATED CHAPTER MEMBERS — should be sent to Maxine Wangberg, 1400 N. 118th St., Wauwatosa 13, Wisconsin. Please pay your dues through your Chapter treasurer if you are a member of a Chapter.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS — send your new address at least 30 days before the issue with which it is to take effect. Send old address with the new, enclosing if possible your address label.

BACK ISSUES OF MAGAZINE — write the African Violet Society of America, Inc., P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tennessee for a list of those in stock. Not all magazines are available as back issues. Do not send money until you get the list. Make check payable to the African Violet Society of America, Inc. Cost \$1.00 per copy.

ADVERTISING RATES — are available from Floyd L. Johnson, 183 W. Gibson Street, Canandaigua, New York.

AFFILIATED CHAPTER INFORMATION — write to Maxine Wangberg, 1400 N. 118th St., Wauwatosa 13, Wisconsin.

MAGAZINE BINDERS — write the African Violet Society of America, Inc., P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tennessee. Two for \$6.50 postpaid.

JUDGING SCHOOLS — for information about holding a judging school to become a qualified judge write Ruth G. Carey, 3900 Garden Drive, Knoxville 18, Tennessee.

AWARDS FOR SHOWS — write Maxine Wangberg, 1400 N. 118th St., Wauwatosa 13, Wisconsin.

CLUB NEWS — send all club news to the Club News editor, Maxine Wangberg, 1400 N. 118th St., Wauwatosa 13, Wisconsin.

SHOW NEWS — send all show news reports to the Show -- News and Views editor, Eunice Fisher, Route 3, Box 284, Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

PLANT REGISTRATION — write Constance Hansen, Box 302, Lafayette, California.

DEADLINE DATES FOR MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS — for September issue, June 1st; December issue, September 1st; March issue, December 1st; June issue, March 1st.

PHOTOGRAPHS — cannot be returned unless by previous agreement with the editor.

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY PIN — may be purchased from the society pin chairman, E. Pearle Turner, 828 Kenmore Boulevard, Akron, Ohio.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION BLANKS and BROCHURES — specify number required when writing the Society, P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tennessee.

COLOR SLIDES and CLUB PROGRAMS — write librarian, Maisie Yakie, P. O. Box 674, Port Arthur, Texas.

DUES — \$4.00 for a 12 month period. The Magazine is included in each membership.

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.
CONVENTION AND ANNUAL MEETING
STATLER HILTON HOTEL
DETROIT, MICHIGAN
APRIL 16, 17, 18, 1959

ADVANCE REGISTRATION FOR JUDGING SCHOOL

STATLER HILTON, DETROIT, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 1959. Class will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. with the examination in the afternoon from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Registration fee, \$1.00.

Name _____

Address _____

Sign the above blank and send your registration fee of \$1.00 to Ruth G. Carey, 3900 Garden Drive, Knoxville 18, Tennessee, not later than April 10th, 1959, if you wish to attend the school. Make registration fee check payable to African Violet Society of America, Inc. To obtain the most from attending the class please study the Handbook and list of registered African violet varieties found in the Member's Handbook before coming to the class. This is especially important if you plan to take the examination.

Detach on Dotted Line

ATTENTION QUALIFIED JUDGES: All qualified judges who plan to attend the Detroit Convention and desire to judge in the Amateur Show, please fill out the blank and send to Mrs. James B. Carey (RUTH G.), 3900 Garden Drive, Knoxville 18, Tenn., not later than March 25th, 1959. Please state if you are an arrangement judge of National Council Flower shows in addition to being a qualified African Violet Society judge.

Name _____

Address _____

Detach and mail to RUTH G. CAREY, 3900 GARDEN DRIVE, KNOXVILLE 18, TENNESSEE.

Detach on Dotted Line

SPECIAL NOTICE TO CLUB PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN:

Please send all Club News (Maxine Wangberg, 1400 N. 118th Street, Wauwatosa 13, Wisconsin) and Show News and Views (Eunice Fisher, Rt. 3, Box 284, Oshkosh, Wisconsin) reports to the editors of these columns as it will expedite their publication in the magazine as well as being of great assistance to me. Also, do send the names of plants and people in photographs.

—Editor.

NOTICE -- MEMBERS' HANDBOOK

The deadline for the 1958-59 Members' Handbook is March 1, 1959. This listing will include all new members and renewals received from March 1, 1958 to March 1, 1959.

All new member's names and addresses, renewals, and changes of address received after this date, March 1, 1959, will not appear in the new Members' Handbook.

Only one address will be published for an individual member. Both post-office box number and street address cannot be used.

If your name and address is not correctly listed in the 1957-58 Members' Handbook, please write to the editor at once.

Address: African Violet Magazine

P. O. Box 1326

Knoxville, Tennessee

The Members' Handbook will be mailed out with the June 1959 issue of the African Violet Magazine.

CORRECTIONS:

Judging School Teachers, page 118, Members' Handbook: Mrs. Grace Eyerdom's correct address is R. R. 2, Box 220, Medina, Ohio.

Registered Plant List, page 140, Members' Handbook: Sundance is listed as a single red. It is a double flowering variety.

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN
AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.**

MYRTLE RADTKE, Treasurer
P. O. Box 1326
Knoxville, Tennessee

Date _____

Please enroll me as a member of African Violet Society of America, Inc. My Dues are enclosed.
All Classes of Memberships Are Defined Below.

- | | |
|--------|--|
| SELECT | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership is only \$4.00. |
| AND | <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Membership is \$13.33. |
| CHECK | <input type="checkbox"/> Research Members pay \$20.00. |
| ONE | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Membership is \$10.00. |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership is available for \$66.66. |

Print Name and Address:

Name _____

Street Address _____

City and State _____

Make Checks Payable to African Violet Society of America, Inc.

DETACH ON DOTTED LINE

GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

A year's membership in the African Violet Society of America, Inc. makes a wonderful gift for every occasion — birthdays, anniversaries, Christmas, holidays, or as an appreciation gift for club speakers.

A gift card (you may enclose your own) will be sent to the recipient of your fine gift.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS . . . Individual members pay \$4.00 per year (a year may be any twelve-month period).

COMMERCIAL MEMBERS . . . All persons or firms who annually sell one thousand or more African violet plants or leaf cuttings of the same; or who manufacture or sell fertilizer, disease and insect-control materials and equipment, tools, or any other merchandise pertaining to or applicable to growing African violets shall be commercial members. They shall pay \$13.33 per year (a year may be any twelvemonth period). Of each annual dues so paid, all sums in excess of \$4.00 shall be applied to the Research Fund of the Society.

RESEARCH MEMBERS . . . Research members pay at least \$20.00 for each twelvemonth period of membership, and at least 85% of each membership paid shall be applied to the Research Fund of the Society.

SUSTAINING MEMBERS . . . Sustaining members pay at least \$10.00 per year (a year may be any twelvemonth period).

LIFE MEMBERS . . . The payment of \$66.66 or more shall entitle any person to life membership, and life members shall be exempt from any further dues.

MEMBERSHIPS OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

The Society is happy to welcome members from all parts of the world. Application for membership should be sent direct to the Treasurer. Remittance for membership dues, by check, draft or postal money order, should be made payable in United States funds.

Detach On Dotted Line

BE A SANTA CLAUS TO ALL YOUR AFRICAN VIOLET FRIENDS

Pat Hertan, Midland Park, New Jersey

"What to give" is a phrase heard over and over again in the busy days before Christmas. To find an answer, even for family and intimate friends, is often bewildering. But, as a special remembrance for dear violet friends on your Christmas list, the solution is simple: Give them the joy of receiving new varieties or colors to add to their collections. The pots can be dressed up a bit by covering with florists' colored foil or just household aluminum foil. Then, make a perky bow of green, red or white ribbon; open one end of a paper clip, leaving a single loop at the other end, and tie the bow onto this loop. Now the straight end of the clip is forced into the soil among the leaves, and the bow gives the African violet a gay, festive look.

However, you may be saying to yourself, "But I've already given as many violets to my friends as I dare; what now?" There are many other possibilities for thoughtful and joy-bringing gifts. Consider very seriously a gift subscription and membership in the African Violet Society of America, Inc., the ideal gift for year 'round remembrance.

Or, how about sending your special friend a gift card for a special amount, plus several illustrated catalogues from major commercial growers, and telling her that an order will be placed with the violet greenhouse of her choice. Her choice of plants would be shipped as soon as weather permits.

For the experimenter on your Christmas list, a Gibberellic Acid Kit (1) would be the perfect answer. This kit consists of a supply of the concentrated gibberellic acid, a measuring device to insure proper strength solutions, an atomizer for application, and an instruction sheet.

But, perhaps you have a friend who is just beginning in this fascinating field of "fun with violets." Why not make up a special "beginner's basket," i. e., assorted sizes of pots and saucers, either clay or plastic; a small bag of vermiculite; a couple of different potting mixes; a good plant food; a spray bomb; a package of plastic markers; and a supply of fresh-cut or rooted leaves properly marked so that your friend can really get a good start for the coming year. Then, cover the entire basket with Saran Wrap, staple along the edge of the top, and attach a Christmas bow.

A gift for fun, and perhaps encouragement in a new line of endeavor, would be a complete kit of African violet seeds (2). This kit includes one hundred and twenty-five assorted seeds, propagating box, special growing mixture, soil conditioner, and instructions.

Books are always a welcome gift. For the beginner, a good choice is William L. Meachem's

"An Easy Guide to African Violets." For the more expert, "1001 African Violet Questions Answered," edited by Helen Van Pelt Wilson. And, for the fluorescent light addict, "Gardening Indoors Under Lights" by Frederick and Jacqueline Kranz would be most welcome. For new and intriguing ideas, choose Emily Stuebing's book, "Arranging African Violets."

Where to put our plants is always a problem to the African violet fan, and to answer that dilemma, here are a couple of suggestions: First, wire window shelves (3) in a choice of white, black or pink finish. These attach to sill or top of lower sash without screws. Second, a wire hanging basket complete with swivel and suspending wires, that will hold nine small plants and make a unique display. Also, there are many ceramic planters and strawberry jars ideally suited to violets. And last, but certainly not least, the various types of many-armed plant stands available at most florists and greenhouses. They may also be purchased with fluorescent lights already built into the plant stand or tiered cart. An electric timer for a friend who already owns a fluorescent-lit cart would be a most welcome gift, too.

So, when Christmas comes, and the inner joy we feel for all that Christmas means must find expression in joyous giving to others, originate special ideas to suit your special violet friends. Think of yourself as a personal branch of Santa's workshop, ready to help make Christmas, 1958, a merry one!

Available through:

- (1) Neil C. Miller, Layton's Lake, Penns Grove, N. J. \$4.25 PPD.
- (2) Mahr Company, Box 585, Des Moines, Iowa. \$1.50
- (3) Harvey J. Ridge, 1126 Arthur Street, Wausau, Wisconsin. \$2.29 each
- (4) Tonkadale Greenhouses, Box 314, Route 3, Hopkins, Minnesota. \$2.25.

end

MEMBERS' HANDBOOK deadline is March 1, 1959 at which time the files will be closed. Changes of address and corrections must be in before this date. — Editor.

BIG BOXFUL HARD-TO-FIND SUPPLIES

More than 60 pieces! Total of 24 Plastic Flower Pots, African Violet Tubs, aluminum foil Alumpots, Jiffy Pots and Ferto-Pots; 8 Plastic and Aluminum Saucers; 12 — 4 1/4" Plastic Plant Markers; 12 self-sticking Identio Tab Labels; 6 Ever-Gro Pot Drains; Pkg., Instant Liquid Fertilizer. All yours for only \$2.00 postpaid! 1959 catalog included tells low quantity prices for unusual hard-to-find supplies for African violets, all indoor plants. 60 illustrated pages. Send \$2.00 now!

THE HOUSE PLANT CORNER

Box 903

Oxford, Maryland

THROUGH THE MAGNIFYING GLASS

Evelyn B. Whitson, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

This is not the usual African violet story. It will not tell you what proportions of this and that you should mix in order to obtain the "perfect" growing soil, nor will it tell you what spray to use to combat any and all violet pests. It will, however, tell you the story of Frances and her magnifying glass and what a heart-warming experience that has been for me.

After many hardships, Frances came to Philadelphia from Germany about ten years ago. I met her when she moved into the apartment over me. When I paid a neighborly call, I saw on her window sill a small container with two little green shoots showing above the surface of the soil. As I was curious, I asked what they were and discovered she had planted date seeds. All I needed to know was that she was interested in plants and we immediately had a common meeting ground. Naturally, she had to see my violets and she was enthralled. I asked if she would be interested in trying to raise a violet and, of course, she was. Sophie Bullock had just presented me with her overflow stock of Neptune plants, which I had promised to place in good homes, so one of those plants was given at once to Frances. Her Neptune thrived and bloomed and from time to time I added another variety to her window sill garden.

Meantime, her already serious eye condition became worse and it was necessary for her to have a series of eye operations. Her vision deteriorated so badly, however, that she was soon unable to retain her office position. She began receiving instructions at the Philadelphia Lighthouse for the Blind in the use of Braille and other aids to the visually handicapped.

I could not help but wonder how her condition would affect her love for plants and her ability to care for them. I soon found out. She wears glasses with very special lenses, and with the aid of a strong magnifying glass she has continued to grow her plants.

Fortunately, Frances is a most intelligent person with a retentive memory, so she is able to absorb what I tell her or read to her, and it is not often I must repeat a pointer on violet care. There is much she cannot see, so I pay her frequent visits just to be sure that everything is going well. For instance, even with her magnifying glass she was not able to detect that the sudden, strong, spring sun was burning the leaves of her plants. I was able to guide her limited vision in such a way that she could make out the brown spots on the leaves. Before I showed them to her, they had just looked like shadows on the foliage. That gave me the opportunity to explain the need for protection against too much sun, and the next time I visited I found she had

been most ingenious in rearranging her plants to give them the most protection yet permit them to have the light they need to bloom.

When I come home from work at night, if there is one of my plants which seems especially lovely at the moment, I take it to pay Frances a visit. Immediately she has magnifying glass in hand, and as she looks will say, "It is a beauty." Once she added, "You see, I study it very carefully so I will remember what it looks like, for there may come a time when I will not be able to see it at all except in my mind's eye." I agreed it was good for her to remember so that if it became necessary for her to "see" a plant through my description, she would be able to visualize it; if, for instance, I told her it had rouge like Pink Cushion but was a light blue double like Gent's Light Blue Cluster.

We must remember that Frances has been a citizen of our country for only a short time so it is all the more remarkable that she retains so much of what she hears. Her English is quite good and properly grammatical and only occasionally does an idiom sound a little strange or different. She wants to be reassured that her plants are "wholesome," an expression which I find charming. Often she tells me how much pleasure her plants have brought her . . . "They make my home beautiful and my love for them has crept into my heart."

She has learned her African violet lessons well. One night she telephoned me to ask if I could come up to see her. With her magnifying glass she had found something on a petiole which looked alarming to her, and she wanted to be sure there was nothing wrong with her plant. Pending my arrival, she had isolated the plant and was anxiously awaiting my verdict. I was happy to be able to tell her it was a particle of mineral salt and not an insect or pest about to devour her plants.

Part of the joy I have received from Frances and her magnifying glass are the very discerning things she herself has learned about her plants. For instance, recently I gave her a small plant of White Pride and we have both been eagerly watching its growth. One day I decided it was time to be on the lookout for the first buds and was delighted to find that there were two buds showing. I have gradually learned just what Frances can and cannot see, even with her magnifying glass, and knew she could not see these minute buds, so told her of them. For once, she doubted me and said I must be mistaken. When I asked why she felt I was in error, her reply was that she had noticed that when buds start to form the petioles turn red, and there were no red stems on this plant. Then I could explain to her that since this was her first white plant, she had not had the opportunity to know that white plants, with the type of foliage which White Pride has, do not show any red in the stems. This satisfied her and she could accept my statement that there were actually buds on her plant.

It has been only lately that I decided that her next step should be starting new plants

from leaves. I put the first leaves in water for her so she could see the actual beginning of roots and small plants. Her delight was unbounded . . . "I try not to look at them more than twice a day." Now she has "graduated" to starting leaves in vermiculite, a good many of which she has planted without my supervision. On one occasion when we were discussing the leaves she has under propagation, she expressed concern that the leaves might be too close together. I reassured her and described how commercial growers have their leaves planted. She asked if their leaves sprouted sooner than ones planted at home. When I said that they did and explained why, she wanted to know exactly when I had planted a leaf cutting which I had brought up to her. In my instructions to Frances, I have at times probably been overcautious as I have hesitated to burden her with too many details. Now she surprised me by saying that the next time she planted a leaf she wanted to note the date on the marker so she would know just how long it took to sprout. I must admit that, like

many of us, she is a little impatient for the first green shoots to appear, but I think I have been able to explain to her satisfaction that some varieties just take longer than others.

At the Philadelphia Lighthouse for the Blind, where Frances goes daily, she is the one who tends the plants on the window sills, and she is most generous in sharing her plants with the Lighthouse. In the near future, the Lighthouse will be moving to more spacious quarters where there will be additional window sill space. The reason she is propagating so many leaves is that she wants more plants to take to the Lighthouse. She explained to me that even the people who cannot see at all derive a good deal of pleasure from just knowing the plants are there. I shall, of course, give her additional plants for the Lighthouse, and my own delight and thrill in knowing that they are there and bringing pleasure to her and her companions will make the miracle of growing African violets a greater joy than I have ever had before.

end

FOUND AT LAST

THE IDEAL LIGHT FOR AFRICAN VIOLETS. You've read about it in the March 1956 Issue of the African Violet Magazine "LET THERE BE LIGHT" by M. Eugene Sundt. You can get it only at Floralite.

NEW IDEAL 4 TUBE DUALITE FLUORESCENT WITH 2 SOCKETS FOR INCANDESCENT LIGHTS INCLUDING 3 PINK AND 1 BLUE 40 WATT FLUORESCENT TUBES WITH CORD AND PLUG. Fixture 48 in. long and 16 in. reflector. Delivered \$26.00.

NEW IDEAL 5 TUBE FLUORESCENT FIXTURE

48 in. long 16 in. reflector available with any color tubes. Write for prices.



FLUORESCENT FIXTURE 48 in. long 13 in. reflector with 2-40 watt tubes, cord and plug \$11.50 plus \$2.50 postage and packing.

16 IN. LEGS to convert any fixture to table lamp \$2.00 P. P.

"GARDENING INDOOR UNDER LIGHTS" By Frederick & Jacqueline Kranz \$4.95



NEW STARLITE GARDEN LAMP is the most beautiful and useful lamp made. The perforated steel shade filters the lights into your room. Rubber tipped legs will not mar or slip. 33 in. long, 14 in. wide and 18 in. high. Will accommodate 32 or more plants. Black Wrought Iron with white reflector with cord, plug, switch and 2-40 watt 24 in. long tubes. \$22.50 Post Paid.

Just set and forget. Your lights will go on and off automatically. No more light worries. Special \$9.50 Postage Paid.



Lustrous Hi-Impact Polystyrene Trays 12x22x2 1/2 in. \$1.98 Each Postage Paid. No less than 6 sold.

FOR THE FIRST TIME THE FLORALITE CART, an attractive indoor greenhouse with lustrous Hi-Impact Polystyrene Trays. These 2 1/2 in. deep plant trays never rot, rust or corrode. Available in two or three tier models with adjustable height Fluorescent or Dualite Fixtures. Tiers are 22 in. wide and 48 in. long. Cart has large, rubber, ball bearing casters. Aluminum trays available if preferred. Send for complete information and prices.

FLORALITE COMPANY

4124 E. Oakwood Rd.

South Milwaukee, Wisconsin

DON'T LOOK FOR AFRICAN VIOLET BARGAINS

Bernice E. Campbell, Glenside, Pennsylvania

I have had a little more than my share of bad luck with African violets. Maybe someone will benefit from my dreadful lesson. When anyone becomes a violet addict there is no stopping her. Plants in every room and on every window sill until you feel a piece of furniture is less important than more space for your beloved plants. But let me tell my story from the day I received my first plants.

On a May day in 1951 a neighbor gave me five "Blue Boy" plants that had never bloomed for her. Neither she nor I knew anything about these temperamental flowers, but with care and patience I had them blooming in no time. And I must certainly say they were a sight to behold. I was a person who had no luck whatsoever with any kind of plant so this was really a challenge. The blooming was so abundant that I had to know more about these so-called "African violets" that would bloom in December and give a performance a spring violet could never match. A girl friend became very enthused when I took her some plants, and every time my husband and I visited her, she and I would take off in search of more lovely plants. A flower is a flower to my husband and that is as far as his interest goes for any plant, but he was willing to go along with me. We went way out-country one day to look for something unusual and came home with the prettiest Yellow Brown Girl plant I have ever seen. Every time I bought a plant I tried to get three small plantlets in each pot, thus my friend got one and I kept two. This way I hoped to salvage one and thus my money wouldn't go down the drain, so to speak.

Tinari's Greenhouses in Bethayres are only a few miles from me. Mr. Tinari has the most gorgeous display to be seen, and there I purchased over sixty-five varieties. Such well cared for plants are not to be forgotten. Then I had the itch to get well supplied with all types of items to keep my hobby going. I bought four hundred two-and-one-half inch clay pots, seventy-five thumb pots, peat moss, vermiculite, bone meal, markers, insecticides, and twenty-five pounds of soil. After a time I gathered the courage to bake my own soil, and I had very good luck with it. I did my potting in the cellar, and boiled all the pots before using. Also I acquired two large double fluorescent lights and my violets put on a show that would have dazzled anyone. Fischer Greenhouses in Linwood, New Jersey, supplied most of my doubles, and I certainly came away with a lot less than I would have liked. My pocketbook stretches only so far and I have to limit myself a great deal. Time marched on and all my plants were beautifully happy in their cellar haven. By this time I had over four hundred and twenty-five plants and among these were one hundred and twenty-five varieties.

Now this is the part of the story that hurts me most. At first I didn't want to talk about it but time heals the worst wounds. One day I went to a florist to order a floral spray and while there I noticed he carried a few violets. I bought two lovely ones and continued to browse around as one will when there are pretty plants about. As I roamed around I wandered into a small greenhouse off to one side that seemed to contain many house plants. I also noticed about fifty violets huddled together under one of the benches and asked the clerk why this was. She said they were put away as they had stopped blooming. She implied that they were dead-wood and while not blooming they were not pleasant to the eye of a prospective customer.

After I was home I could not help but think about those plants sitting in the dark, and asked my husband's opinion. He suggested we purchase some if possible. The clerk informed me I could buy as many pots as I liked for thirty-five cents each. Some were labeled, but not all, so I selected what looked to be thirteen different ones and paid a little over four dollars for them. While the clerk boxed them for me I remarked about the beautiful ferns overhead, and little did I think I would have cause to remember this. Hurrying home and being careful not to crush a leaf, my face was all smiles thinking how many lovely rewards would be reaped from such a small amount of money. Down in the cellar, with all of my supplies beside me, I separated and repotted for the remainder of the day. One plant had tiny white worms on it and I threw it away but salvaged two small plantlets that were in the same pot. When I finished, I had thirty-nine newly planted babies to watch grow. What do you think happened? Not a one bloomed, no, not a single one. I watched them closely and nothing happened.

Shortly afterward they started to cripple in the center. The leaves all twisted in different directions and they simply looked awful. In no time at all this disease was creeping into all my plants, and I was at a loss for a solution. There do not seem to be many African violet enthusiasts hereabouts so I couldn't turn to anyone for help. I thought I would try to save them, and I did everything in my power to do just that. My husband built me large tables and we moved them to our spare bedroom upstairs, hoping the bright light might help. No avail. I sprayed with expensive insecticides, no go. I watered less, and they withered more. At this point they were the sorriest looking plants you ever saw. At this most awful time I fell and broke my leg, and was more worried about my plants than about myself. Every day I hobbled into their room and discarded the worst ones. I eventually lost them all.

Now all I have is empty pots — no plants at all — but what learning I have. All gone: Lovely Lady Geneva, my pet; Yellow Brown Girl, my pride; Blue Boy, my challenge.

Oh, so many beautiful plants that had so much about them to make me a happier person. But with all my disillusion, no one can take the knowledge I acquired. My husband bought me Helen Van Pelt Wilson's book, and in my more than leisure time I am trying to store up more learning. This has helped me greatly as I have no plants to fuss over. At this time they are bringing more lovely violets to the public than ever before; some of the varieties I had are not even listed in the book.

My fingers may fondle violets again, but I hope they are never tempted to touch another so-called bargain. I found out too late that the florist had sprayed those ferns with water and it had dripped down on the violets through the benches. Since we know our plants need insect free soil and care, the drippage from unprotected plants could give violets almost anything. Now I know that I had the one thing that any African violet lover dreads, and that is nematodes. Also I know that these plants came from a reputable distributor as he is a member of our Society. Little do some members know what the florists do with them once they leave the greenhouses.

I also bought some plants from a woman up-country and for over two years they didn't do a thing. I didn't think this strange, but one day when I returned for some new plants she asked me if any of my plants had stunt. I thought she was kidding me at first, and then she explained. The heater man had come when she wasn't at home and removed the stove pipes. She didn't have time to remove her plants and the fumes that were in the pipes spread all over the cellar. Hence, stunt. No need to say I also lost these.

This is my tale of woe and I hope it does not discourage any of you. I was angry at the florist for a time, but he is selling flowers only for the money and not the pleasure of it. I suppose they try to squeeze every penny they can out of a plant so that they do not take a loss. I cannot repeat BEWARE too often. For a little over four dollars I lost a big investment. I am not bitter because I have only empty pots, but I am enriched in experience. It could have been worse if more money had been involved. No one suffered but me, and, of course, the money I had spent was a sacrifice because it was my clothing money.

We are shortly moving into a new and larger home and expect to have much more room for plants. As a matter of fact, the rear of the property has a thirty by one hundred foot commercial strip of ground on it, and here I hope to have a greenhouse full of violets someday.

When I finally found out that there was an African Violet Society, I joined right away, and I wished that someday I could have named a violet after me. But someone has already named a plant Bernice. I have never seen this plant but hope to purchase one when I get started again. In the future I may still name one, perhaps after our newly adopted son.

I want to thank each one of you who has taken of your precious time to read my article. I think your plants will be safer because you did. end

SEASON'S GREETINGS

and

May you find the prettiest, the brightest and the showiest in 1959.

MADISON GARDENS

West Middle Ridge Rd.

Madison, Ohio

FLUOR-AL — THE ARISTOCRAT OF PLANT STANDS

The "Indoor Greenhouse" for growing and displaying African violets, gloxinias and other house plants. The FLUOR-AL may be used with or without fluorescent lights. Fixtures combining fluorescent and incandescent lights are now available (optional). The FLUOR-AL is constructed entirely of solid aluminum, with full size (nearly 20" x 52") aluminum trays for bottom watering. Provision is made for mounting an automatic time switch on the top bracket, thus combining all necessary accessories into one unit. Supplied complete with all wiring, extension cords, etc.

The FLUOR-AL is the most beautiful, most practical and highest quality of all "apartment greenhouses." You will be proud to show it to your friends and customers. An exclusive feature is the ease with which the lights may be adjusted up to a maximum height of nearly 18" above the trays.

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Send post card for full details, prices and shipping information.

Send us your order for the new book GARDENING INDOORS UNDER LIGHTS by Frederic and Jacqueline Kranz. Full information for making and using equipment for growing flowers, vegetables and other plants by artificial light. 241 pages, plus 16 pages of illustrations, \$4.95 postpaid.

We are in position to supply the light fixtures combining fluorescent and incandescent light as described in this book as well as TIME-ALL automatic controls, soil mixes, compost, plastic markers, etc. Ask for price list.

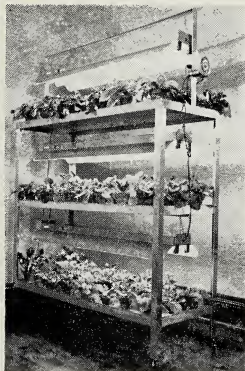
Also available — Peggie Schulz's book GROWING PLANTS UNDER ARTIFICIAL LIGHT. 146 pages, illustrated, \$3.50.

HARVEY J. RIDGE

1126 Arthur St.

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THOSE EVILS—

ROOT ROT AND PETIOLE ROT

Joe Schulz, Indianapolis, Indiana

There are none of you, I suppose, who would disagree on the point that the good Lord knew what He was doing when He made the four seasons of the year. I've not reached the point yet where I can't thoroughly enjoy all the wonders and joys each season has to offer. But with these joys and wonders there come some things that are a trial and tribulation to the cult (violet-atics). Each of the four seasons offers a new problem and a challenge to this particular tribe of people.

While each season can be difficult, there is one in particular that really "shakes" me as it approaches, and that is Spring. Admittedly, the violets are at their peak during the Spring season — an absolutely normal situation obviously. But with this splurge of blooming comes some of the difficult situations which must be endured. In this case I'm referring to those two evils of Spring: root rot and petiole rot. As these two "ailments" are things to be combatted, let's take a bit of time and discuss them.

When I first got the violet habit over twelve years ago, mites and nematodes were the scourge of the African violet collector. Thanks to the progress made by modern science and bug studiers (entomologists) you can, with a minimum of effort and caution and with the excellent chemicals on the market, prevent an infestation from either of these "animules." On the other hand, there is no known (at least to me) chemical preventive for either root rot or petiole rot. Neither is there a chemical "cure" for those ills; however, a chemical or two has been developed that does aid in treating plants afflicted with crown or petiole rot, but more about those later.

There are some rather "high-sounding" words associated with root and petiole rot. Examples of such words are "Efflorescence Disease" associated with petiole rot and "Phytophthora (fungus)" referred to in connection with root rot. The use of such words, by the professional, to describe the condition or causes of these illnesses is okay. For the purposes of this little ditty and because of my lay capacity, I'll just call a spade a spade and let it go at that.

Before I go any further, I must admit that even in my ignorance, I can distinguish some difference between root and crown rot. Some learned people call crown rot root rot. As far as I can ascertain just about the same situation causes both but there is a decided difference. A little later, you will see that plants with root rot can be saved. So far, any plant I've had that was afflicted with crown rot has always "bit the dust." You just can't reroot a rotten crown.

Let's investigate root rot first. What are the causes and what can be done about them? You have probably been wondering why I condemned

the Spring season in the beginning? From experience, conditions are "just right" in the Spring for a wholesale attack of root rot on your plants. Sure, you can have root rot any season, particularly if you give your plants haphazard care. But it is in the Spring, especially during the period that your heat is on very seldom and there is a great deal of humidity in the air that root rot comes a callin'.

During the winter you have been concerned with the lack of humidity because modern heating systems in homes dry out the air so fast. Consequently you must water the plants more often and use all the tricks you can learn to increase the humidity. Then, when Spring arrives, with accompanying rain and humidity and much less heat, many of us forget to make allowances for these conditions and go merrily on our way, overwatering until root rot has a foothold on a number of cherished plants.

Of course soil mixtures have a great deal to do with this excess of moisture. Soil that has high moisture retention properties must be watched much more carefully during this trying time.

Another cause for root rot is excessive drying of the plant then heavy watering. This drying out of the soil, particularly if you let the foliage get limp, often kills the little feeder roots that take up the moisture to supply the needs of the plant. Well, if the feeder roots are gone and you water as heavily as usual, there is nothing in the soil to use up the excess moisture and your main roots begin to rot for lack of air circulation in the pot.

From the foregoing I submit to you that the solution to root rot is a case of prevention by good plant management; however, I do not mean to imply that there is no cure.

What are the symptoms of a plant with root rot? The answer is quite simple, and, by coincidence, the same as a plant with nematodes. Your first indication will be a lack of vitality: no healthy sheen to the foliage. The plant will remain limp or partly so after watering. When that happens, you have two alternatives. Before taking either action be sure your plant does not have nematodes. For our purposes, let's assume that we are not bothered with nematodes.

Now about those two alternatives to follow with a plant that has root rot. Both are successful provided you are careful. The first and by far the easiest to do is to reroot the plant. Remove the plant from the pot, wash all the soil from the roots. Then, by cutting away portions of the main stalk you can determine how far the rot has advanced up the main stem. Remove leaves except those that are close to the crown until your plant is four or five inches in diame-

ter. Use a single edge razor blade for cutting the main stalk and leaf blades. I find it best to cut the main stem to within about one inch of the first leaves — assuming, of course, the rot is below the one inch stem. If after you have made your cut, there is still evidence of the rot (brown watery tissue), you'll have to cut the stem shorter, even perhaps reducing the number of leaves you retain at the crown. After you have nothing but good, healthy tissue you are ready to process the plant for repotting.

Some people say, "Dust the stem part with Fermate, dusting sulphur, or Captan." I've no cause to argue with this procedure, if it works. My experience has been that when I dust with any of these I do not get roots in a hurry, sometimes never. What works best for me is to clean the main stem of any portions of petiole still protruding, then let the plant remain in the open air for one-half to one hour until the cut heals, then place it in my rooting media. Any of the usual rooting media will work. My preference is to place the plant in a little bubble bowl (procurable at Woolworth's for 10¢) until roots form, (about one inch long), then I replant into my favorite rooting media in a community pan. To get rapid root growth and in quantity, and this works for rooting leaf cuttings too, try this rooting media: equal parts sharp sand, peat moss, vermiculite (small) and small grain charcoal. Keep moist but never damp and soggy. You'll be surprised at the tremendous root system this media produces.

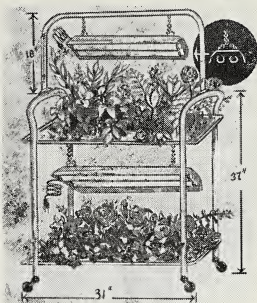
After your plant is well rooted and making rapid growth, transplant to your regular potting mixture in a pot just large enough to accommodate the roots. From now on treat as you do any plant. A word of caution, and this is a trite statement, but one that may help to prevent root rot: DON'T OVERPOT. Keep your plants in small pots and shift to the next larger size only when pot-bound. A small root ball in a pot too large cannot utilize the moisture retained in all that extra soil, therefore you are setting the stage for trouble by using unnecessarily large pots.

One other method I have used to revive and reroot a plant with root rot is a ticklish one that takes a bit of doing to accomplish. You have to be mighty cautious and patient — but it will work!

When you discover a plant with what you think is root rot, withhold water immediately until the soil is perfectly dry on top. Then water only a little bit, often, and then just enough to dampen the soil — do not soak it. Sometimes it takes quite a while to start new growth but you can tell when that happens. After new growth is evident, you can repot into fresh soil and pot being sure to use a small pot again, just large enough to accommodate the new roots.

Actually, what happens is that you grow a new set of roots as in the other recommended method, but you do it without disturbing the plant by removing it from the old pot. It helps

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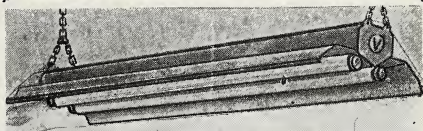


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to remove a number of the older, outer leaves. After all, little new roots can feed just so much foliage. Growing new roots keeps the foliage soft and this is why it seems ages before the plant is healthy again. Really, though, one method is just about as fast as the other. Take your choice . . . but take care!

Crown rot, by my definition, is a bit different from root rot. In the latter the roots rot away. With crown rot the new, tiny center crown leaves rot, and this spreads to the older outer leaves

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and in a jiffy you have a plant that is 'way past human help. There just isn't any cure for this situation. You can't even save leaves because they are rotten where they join the main stalk.

Again, excessive moisture is the culprit in crown rot. Usually in this case it is caused by letting water stand in the crown of your plant. It's easier to do than you think: especially if you have lots of plants and they are crowded together. All too often, when watering from the top, the water gets into the crown and is overlooked, then the trouble begins. Crown rot knows no season, but is most apt to happen in the Spring.

As with crown rot, petiole rot is not confined to any particular season, but the Spring atmosphere is a real "ripe" situation. Let's be sure, when we are discussing petiole rot, we do not confuse it with the natural sluffing of old leaves by the plant. Old leaves are cast off by the plant once in a while. When this is happening, it can be easily identified because the outer rims of the leaves turn light, and this continues into the leaf blades until you just naturally remove these leaves when grooming your plant. Chances are the petiole never collapses because you remove the whole blade and petiole from the plant before this happens.

With real petiole rot (the petiole turns a sickly tannish-color and becomes jelly-like) the rot begins most of the time where the petiole touches the pot rim or soil and the leaf blade remains firm, in most instances. Oh, it can, and sometimes does, start back at the junction of the petiole and the main stalk, but this is the exception rather than the rule. The real cause of petiole rot is the "salts" (whitish, yellowish, or brownish incrustation) that develop on the top of the soil, pot rim or both. 'Tis said this condition is caused by fertilizer deposits in the soil. Guess maybe that is it, too. Now I don't mean just chemical fertilizers, but organic fertilizers, either watered in or incorporated into the soil, will do it too. Watering from the bottom, with the consequent capillary action of the moisture in the pot and soil causes the salts to come up fast.

What to do about this petiole rot? Of course, keep the rotting leaves picked off. That is the first step. Next, let's consider the accumulation of salts on the soil. Some people say this can be eliminated by flushing the soil (completely drenching from the top) two or three times in rapid succession. Can be done, but be careful about subsequent normal watering for a while. Normal watering from the top will keep the soil free of the salts accumulation. Advocates of bottom watering will have to resort to the flushing method — perhaps.

There are a number of ways to keep the petioles from salts injury on the pot rim. I've found two that are practical from my point of view. One, dip the pot rim in melted paraffin (one-fourth to one-half inch deep) before using.

I'd suggest using extra clean used paraffin or brand new. While this is quite successful, there is one bad aftermath. Eventually those pots so treated will have the plants removed and will have to be cleaned. All that paraffin requires two separate washings. I boil the pots after cleaning, and the boiling brings the paraffin out. Then the pots have to be scrubbed again to get the paraffin off the pot. It is a bit of extra work!

The second method, and by far the best, is to put a foil rim around the pot. The heavier the foil the better. This foil rim not only eliminates the dangers of petiole rot from contact with the pot rim but sorta dresses up the pot to boot, I think.

While there are other methods of lifting the petioles off the pot rim, I'm convinced the two methods set forth above are the most logical answer to the problem.

For what it is worth, wiping the whole pot with mild vinegar water will help eradicate the salts that gather on the pot itself.

As a finale to this, and to sum up what I've tried to put across in the preceding paragraphs, the real answer to the root rot and petiole rot problem is quite simple. Good plant management or, in other words, using good common sense in the care of our plants. Use caution in what you do in an endeavor to prevent root rot or petiole rot. It is much easier to do this than it is to repair the damage after it has occurred. end

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A WINTER FANTASY

Caroline A. Degnan, Floral Park, New York

It was a beautiful clear, cold W. N. U. B. and M. C. were just leaving the house to attend the winter carnival, held yearly, out on the lake at the edge of town. The B. P. of the distant mountains could still be seen for the N. S. were A. A., with the A. from the P. I. and M. R. were dancing on the B. I. of the lake.

The sound of S. B. was heard as U. B. and M. C. drove the sleigh through town. M. C. looked very fetching in her W. V. suit with a corsage of H. and W. leaves.

The carnival was just starting as they arrived at the lake.

A parade of skaters headed by the S. P. an the C. Q. started across the B. I. They were followed by the S. F. from the F. D. and an A. D. and many others. The S. P. and the C. Q. were presented with L. C. by the S. F.

Later in the evening everyone joined in a S. B. fight for the F. air gave everybody a feeling of vigor and happiness. A D. time was had by all and so they departed for home.

On the trip home U. B. and M. C. were enjoying the beautiful S. unfolding before them when in the east a beautiful star shown. It was the C. S. for this was Christmas Eve. As they approached the house there in the window was a beautiful W. M. and the light from the C. S. shown full on it. Mother had placed it there in honor of the Christ Child. end

Answers on page 75



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THE BUYER'S GUIDE PLANT REPORT

Quixie Nichols, Madison, Tennessee

We are giving you our poll on African violets tested during 1957-1958, excluding plants received after April 1st. We possibly will give you those in the March issue along with our "Choice Twenty-Five." You will note that on some varieties there will be only four or even less votes. In case you wonder why, it is because one or more members had a plant to die or that the newest member of our committee had not grown that particular variety. Thanks for your letters either of commendation or condemnation, as that is the only way we have of knowing whether we are giving you what you want. Please keep them coming.

Also let us hear from you as to what information you would like most for us to give you. We will try to do all requests as far as we are able. We are always looking for new and outstanding varieties and if you know of any in your particular section of the country please let us know.

Possibly you have wondered why we do not give you information on the latest varieties sooner, but if you are familiar with getting plants from commercial growers, you know that it takes just about a year to get a plant really going enough to say whether it is good or poor. We certainly would not want to misjudge any plant; so for that reason we feel it best to give all plants a fair chance even if there are a few plants that have the vigor to grow and bloom well in a short period of time.

Some varieties are definitely different enough that we could say they were different but we still could not tell you if it would grow and bloom beautifully for you. There have been some questions along this line, so thought it best to try to explain to all of you.

If the commercial growers would only let us have their new varieties they plan to release in the spring along in September, we could possibly give a very good report of them in the spring since the winter months are such wonderful growing months. We could at least give you a report the next fall before you bought your new plants. We hope more and more of the growers will try to do this in the future.

BUYER'S GUIDE RATES THE PLANT

ANN RUTLEDGE (Granger Gardens) Medium blue center, broad white margin, girl foliage. Committee rating: three good, two poor.

LAVENDER AIR WAVES (Select Violet House) Large, fluffy, double lavender blooms on long stems. Committee rating: four fair, one poor.

BLACK CHERRY (Anderson) Very dark green, red-backed, symmetrical foliage with huge

deep red double blossoms that last a long time. Committee rating: one outstanding, two excellent, one very good.

BLUE ELECTRA (Granger Gardens) Immense light blue double blooms, standard foliage. Committee rating: one very good, one good, one fair.

BLUE FLAG (Lyon's) Large blue star shaped blossoms in profusion on good deep green foliage. Committee rating: one outstanding, one very good, one fair.

BLUE NOCTURNE (Granger Gardens) Large light wavy blue double on strong medium green wavy foliage. Committee rating: two outstanding, two excellent.

BLUE POM (Granger Gardens) Large light blue double blossoms on deep green Supreme foliage. Committee rating: three excellent, two good.

BLUE RIDGE (Originator Unknown) Medium green slightly wavy foliage with deep blue blossoms. Committee rating: two fair, two poor.

BOUNTIFUL (Tonkadale Greenhouses) Deep green, red-backed foliage with dark blue blossoms. Committee rating: one excellent, two poor, one very poor.

PINK VALENTINE (Bud Brewer) Heart shaped, deep green, deeply notched foliage with deep pink double blossoms. Committee rating: one very good, two good, one fair.

CARA MIA (Granger Gardens) Huge double blue and blossoms on Supreme dark green foliage. Committee rating: one excellent, two good but seasonal, one fair.

CHERRY PINK (Wilson's) Deep green, quilted foliage with deep pink double blossoms. Committee rating: two excellent, two very good.

CORINNE (Lyon's) Double white flowers with much chartreuse when young, pure white when mature. Very free bloomer, excellent foliage. Committee rating: one excellent, two very good, one good.

CRUSADER (Ulery's Greenhouses) Deep red double blossoms in profusion, deep green slightly upright growing foliage. Committee rating: one excellent, two very good, one fair.

DAISY MAE (Lyon's) White blossoms with a blue border that stays, on deeply notched, slightly upright growing girl foliage. Committee rating: three good, one fair, one poor.

DARK EYED DREAM (Granger Gardens) Large, soft shade of blue blossom on good dark green foliage. Committee rating: four good, one fair.

DOUBLE ORCHID PRINCE (West Side Gardens) Deep red double blossoms that are slightly bicolored on deep green quilted foliage. Committee rating: two excellent, one very good, one good.

EBB TIDE (Granger Gardens) Dark green red-backed, upright growing foliage, with blue

blossoms with a broad white margin, ruffled with orchid veining around edge. Committee rating: one very good, two good, one fair.

ESTHER WILLIAMS (Wilson's) Deep green upright growing foliage, nice medium pink single blooms. Committee rating: two good, two fair.

FASCINATION (Tonkadale Greenhouses) Very deep pink double fringed blossoms on deep green wavy foliage. Committee rating: three outstanding, two excellent.

FIRE DANCE (Fischer Greenhouses) Large red bicolor blossoms on deep green foliage. Committee rating: one outstanding, three excellent, one very good.

FRILLY FLUFF (Dr. Reed) Medium light green foliage, double orchid and white blossoms. Committee rating: one very good, two good, one fair.

FRINGED SNOW PRINCE (Dr. Reed) Medium green wavy foliage with white fringed blossoms. Committee rating: two good, three fair.

FRIVOLOUS PINK (Granger Gardens) Frilled deep pink blooms on dark green wavy foliage. Profuse bloomer but does not always hold frills. Committee rating: one excellent, two good, two fair.

GILT EDGE (Ulery's Greenhouses) duPont foliage with burgundy colored fringed blossoms. Does not always hold its gilt edge. Committee rating: three poor, one very poor.

GRAND CHAMPION (Lyon's) Plain foliage with deep pink semidouble blossoms. Committee rating: two good, one fair, one poor.

HOLIDAY SPORT (Lyon's) Fuschia pink double blossoms, on very dark red-backed upright foliage. Committee rating: one outstanding, three very good.

INVADER (Lyon's) Extremely large, slightly ruffled semidouble flowers, medium to deep pink with medium green foliage. Committee rating: two excellent, one very good, two good.

KIMBERLY (Bud Brewer) Very dark green, heavily ruffled foliage with a dark red lining. Large radiant powder blue double blooms, each petal edged with a soft white ruffle. Committee rating: three outstanding, one very good, one good.

LINGO (Lyon's) Very lovely dark heavily waved foliage. Large very frilled two-toned lavender blossoms. Committee rating: one excellent, one very good, one good, one slow.

LITTLE SWEETHEART (Tonkadale Greenhouses) Deep green wavy foliage with a profusion of soft pink, fringed double blossoms. Committee rating: one excellent, three very good, one good.

LORNA DOONE (Granger Gardens) Deep wine bicolor, fully double, ruffled blossoms on dark wavy foliage. Committee rating: one outstanding, one excellent, two very good, one good.

LOVELY LADY (Wilson's) Medium deep green foliage with a profusion of deep pink

SEASON'S GREETINGS

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MOSS ROSE—Another bright heavily fringed double pink gorgeously set off by black green foliage, a Vallin beauty.

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"Please say you saw it in A. V. M."

double blossoms. Committee rating: four excel-
lent, one fair.

MARK ROBERT (Lyon's) Medium green slow
growing foliage with huge star shaped blossoms,
fused with blue, held well above the foliage.
Committee rating: four very good, one slow.

MARY THOMPSON (Granger Gardens)
Medium green foliage, blossoms double of a soft
shade of mauve or light violet. Committee rating:
four very good, one good.

MENDOTA (Tonkadale Greenhouses) Medium
light green wavy foliage with a profusion of light
violet fringed double blooms. Committee rating:
one excellent, two very good, one good.

MODERNAIRE (Granger Gardens) Olive
green modified girl foliage, profusion of large,
very bright blue blossoms. Committee rating:
one excellent, three very good, one good.

MULTIFLORA ICE BLUE (Fischer Green-
houses) Light blue double blossoms on wavy
foliage. Committee rating: one good, three fair.

MY SIN (Lyon's) Large bright pink double
blossoms on medium sized plants with deep green
foliage. Committee rating: three very good, one
good.

NORTHERN CHEER (Dr. Reed) Lovely,
fluffy, deep pink blossoms on slow growing deep
green quilted foliage. Committee rating: four
good, one fair.

NORTHERN GLORY (Dr. Reed) Deep green
modified girl foliage, pink double blossoms, never
makes a large plant. Committee rating: three
good, two fair.

OLIVIA (Tonkadale Greenhouses) Medium
green wavy foliage with nice fringed double pink
blooms. Very similar to Fascination. Committee
rating: one excellent, one very good, two good,
one fair.

PINK BABY'S BREATH (Lyon's) Long
petioles on modified girl foliage. Large pink and
white double blossoms. Committee rating: five
poor foliage, two excellent blooms.

PINK CARESS (Granger Gardens) Deep
green red-backed foliage with deep pink fringed
blooms. Committee rating: one very good, four
poor.

PINK DOUBLE ONE (Peterson's) Olive
green, red-backed foliage, with a profusion of
medium pink double blooms. Committee rating:
three outstanding, one excellent, one fair.

PINK FEATHER (Granger Gardens) Medium
green deeply notched girl foliage. Soft pink
single blossoms. Committee rating: one very
good, one good, three fair.

PINK JOY (Ulery's Greenhouses) Deep
green red-backed foliage, nice large deep pink
blossoms. Committee rating: one good, one fair.

PINK MAMBO (Lyon's) Modified girl foliage
with double pink blossoms. Committee rating:
one good, one fair, two poor.

PINK MIRACLE (Fischer Greenhouses) Plain
foliage with a pink blossom that is deeper in the

eye zone and around the edge of the blossom which is usually slightly fringed. Committee rating: one outstanding, two excellent, one very good, one good.

PINK SEQUIN (Fischer Greenhouses) Medium green foliage with a fuschia pink bloom. Committee rating: one outstanding, two fair.

PINK VICTORIA (Ulery's Greenhouses) Deep green quilted foliage, clusters of very double pink blossoms that remind one of sweetheart roses. Committee rating: one very good, two fair, one poor.

PINK POPCORN (Bud Brewer's) Deep green girl foliage with double pink blossoms which remind you of sweetheart roses. Committee rating: two excellent, two very good, one good.

PORTRAIT (Tonkadale Greenhouses) Lovely blue blossom with a wide white fringed border, foliage wavy but has slightly long petioles. Committee rating: one very good, three good, one poor.

✦ **PRIMATIF** (Lyon's) The color of this large star shaped upright blossom is fuschia pink, dark green foliage. Committee rating: one outstanding, one excellent, one very good, two fair.

RAMONA (Tonkadale Greenhouses) Deep green foliage veined lighter green, blossoms are a nice shade of pink double with some fringe on edges of petals. Committee rating: One excellent, two very good, one good.

✦ **REDDERNESS** (Lyon's) Medium sized double red blossom on dark, quilted foliage. Committee rating: two excellent, two good.

✦ **ROYAL BOUQUET** (Granger Gardens) Medium green foliage with large double, dark blue fringed blossoms. Committee rating: two excellent, two very good.

ROYAL KNAVE (Granger Gardens) Dusty blue, ruffled single, wavy dark foliage. Committee rating: two good, one fair.

RUFFLED GENEVA (Ulery's Greenhouses) Medium green slightly wavy foliage with a deep blue blossom with a white line around the edge of each petal. Committee rating: one very good, one fair, two poor.

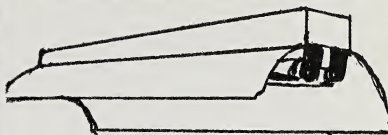
✦ **RUTHIE** (Tonkadale Greenhouses) Medium green glossy foliage, with deep pink semidouble fringed blossoms in profusion. Committee rating: one excellent, one very good, two good, one fair.

✦ **SANTA MARIA** (Granger Gardens) Shiny deep green wavy foliage, with a profusion of light blue fringed, single blossoms. Committee rating: two excellent, one very good, one good, one fair.

✦ **SEA QUEEN** (Granger Gardens) Very deep green, glossy, girl foliage with light blue fringed blossoms. Committee rating: Three good, two fair.

✦ **SEA SPRITE** (Granger Gardens) White double with lilac blue fringe on bright green waxy, quilted foliage. Committee rating: three good, two fair.

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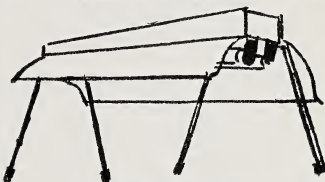
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As advertised, for which I enclose check or money

order for \$ _____, plus \$2.20 for packing and postage for each fixture. West of Mississippi, add \$3.35.

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SOUVENIR (Originator Unknown) Deep green foliage with lighter veins, small orchid blossom with very deep eye zone. Committee rating: four poor.

SPAN (Lyon's) Profuse blooming, soft pink double blossoms on dark quilted foliage. Committee rating: one very good, three good, one slow.

SPIC (Lyon's) Companion plant to Span, profuse blooming double blue blooms on deep green quilted foliage. Committee rating: two very good, two good, one very slow.

STAR BLUE (Lyon's) Dark green foliage with huge blue-purple star shaped blossoms. Committee rating: one excellent, two very good, two fair.

STAR DELIGHT (Dr. Reed) Deep green foliage with white star shaped blossom, with a bright blue stripe down the center of each petal. Variable. Committee rating: three very good, one good.

STARLIGHT (Lyon's) Semidouble, nearly white blossom shading to blue in center, medium green foliage. Committee rating: three very good, one good.

STAR OF THE NORTH (Dr. Reed) Medium deep green foliage with star shaped white blossoms held well above the foliage. Committee rating: two very good, two good, one fair.

STAR PERFECTION (Dr. Reed) Medium light green foliage, light pink star shaped blossom. Committee rating: one very good, one good, two fair.

STAR PINK (Lyon's) Large light pink cupped star shaped blossoms on green foliage. Committee rating: three very good, two good.

STAR PINK (New) (Lyon's) Deep pink star shaped flat blossoms on deep green foliage. Committee rating: one excellent, three very good, one good.

STAR SAPPHIRE IMPROVED (Dr. Reed) Plain foliage, blue star shaped blossoms. Committee rating: three fair, one poor.

STAR TRIUMPH (Dr. Reed) Plain foliage with red-orchid star shaped blossom. Committee rating: one very good, one good, one poor.

STEPHANIE (Granger Gardens) Very dark red-backed foliage with soft light pink fringed blossoms. Committee rating: one very good, two fair, one poor.

SWEET ADALINE (Granger Gardens) Dark bronzy wavy foliage, light orchid double blooms. Committee rating: one excellent, one very good, two fair.

TENNESSEE PINK (Nichols) Dark green foliage sometimes red-backed with very large deep pink blossoms. Committee rating: three excellent, two good.

THUNDERHEAD (Granger Gardens) Supreme foliage with huge white blooms. Committee rating: two slow but good, two poor, one very poor.


VALLINPINK (Vallin) Lovely deep green wavy foliage, with deep pink fringed single blooms, usually has a chartreuse edge around each petal. Committee rating: four excellent, one very good.

VAGABOND (Lyon's) Dark red reverse wavy foliage, frilled lavender single flowers. Committee rating: two very good, three good.

WHITE GODDESS (Granger Gardens) Pure white (cupped) blossoms with heavy frill, on dark green girl foliage. Committee rating: one outstanding, two good, one fair, one slow.

WHITE ORCHID (Granger Gardens) Heavily ruffled white blossoms on deep green foliage. Committee rating: one outstanding, three very good, one fair.

WHITE PRIDE SUPREME (Ulery's Greenhouses) Deep green Supreme foliage, huge white double blooms which remind one of a camellia. Committee rating: three excellent, one very good, one good. end

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REROOTING AFRICAN VIOLETS

Sara Cubbage, Glenshaw, Pennsylvania

There comes a time for all of us after we have grown an African violet plant for a few years when it will have a tendency to grow taller and out of the soil. Such a plant can be rerooted, either in water or soil.

Should you decide on the water method, I suggest you select a pretty container fitting with the color of the African violet. Fill the container with water; rain water, if available. Remove all the older leaves from the plant, then clean the main stem by scraping it with a sharp knife. Your plant is now ready to be placed in its container. Make certain to set the plant in a location where it will receive plenty of light.

When the roots are formed, you can feed with a soluble plant food of one-eighth teaspoon to a pint of water. Just keep adding this mixture as the plant needs additional water and you will again have a beautiful blooming plant.

If you prefer to reroot your African violet in soil, prepare the plant in the same manner as you would if using the water method, but do make sure to have a two-and-a-half to three inch stem for planting.

The soil mixture I use successfully consists of one-third each of leaf mold, peat moss and vermiculite, with a little charcoal added. The leaf mold and peat moss must be sterilized by steaming it or baking it.

You will find that it will be necessary to brace the plant for a time after planting. For this purpose, I use plant markers or small sticks. Keep the plant moist at all times, and in a month you can start feeding with half strength plant food of your choice. end

MORE ON TEMPERATURE HUMIDITY RATIO

Mrs. G. M. Johnson, Hudson, P. Q., Canada

I agree with Col. Bert Rosenbaum's findings (p. 46-73 March 1958). We lived in Sao Paulo, Brazil, for a few years and during our winter we would get near freezing temperatures with a dense fog (high humidity) during the nights. In the daytime temperatures would rise as much as 30-50 degrees F. only to drop again as soon as the sun began to set. Ironically the plants which received the least care were the ones to survive; i.e. they didn't get watered and, keeping dry, didn't get crown rot like the others. The above refers to plants I grew outside. In the house, of course, we didn't have these tremendous changes in temperature, although our houses were unheated except for a fireplace and electric space heaters neither of which can take the place of central heating. end



A corner of Mrs. Tretter's basement greenhouse.

MORE ABOUT: HOW I GROW AFRICAN VIOLETS

Adele Tretter, St. Louis, Missouri

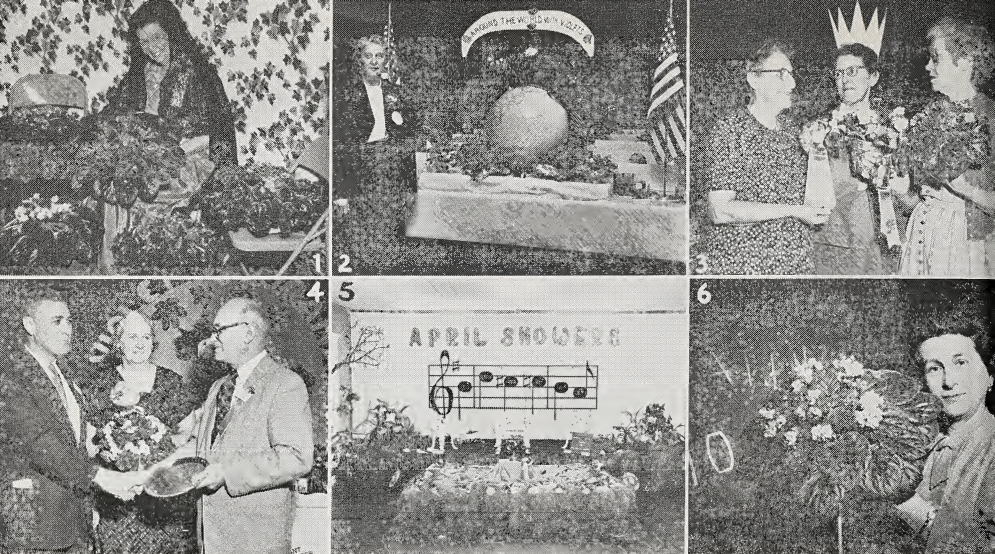
The March, 1958 magazine carried a story on "How I Grow African Violets." Since then I have had a number of letters requesting more information about my Nature's Way formula, and also asking where Ortho-Gro plant food and Isotox plant spray may be purchased. I answered as many of the letters as possible, but for those who did not hear from me, I will now give the formula for my planting mixture. I have been using this since early 1954, and I like it very much.

Organic Mixture

- I use a pound coffee can for a measure (M)
- 5 M - peat moss (German or Canadian)
- 5 M - sand (coarse builder's)
- 2 M - dried cattle manure (commercial)
- 1 M - bone meal (steamed)
- 1 M - rock potash (Hybro-Tite, trade name)
- 1 M - rock phosphate (30%), not superphosphate
- 1 M - charcoal (granulated chick feed size)
- One large handful Activo

Moisten and let stand in a tub for one week, turning the mixture over daily. Then, store in a covered container, such as a wash boiler, so the moisture does not dry out. Do not use for six weeks.

The Ortho-Gro plant food and the Isotox spray are developed by the California Spray-Chemical Corporation. There are distributors most everywhere in the country. If you cannot find one in your town, write to the California Spray-Chemical Corporation, Mr. Roy Staples, P. O. Box 129, Maryland Heights, Missouri; or to the California Spray-Chemical Corporation, Lucas Street and Ortho Way, Richmond, California. end



1 - Los Angeles African violet show. Mrs. John Cutridge in Spanish costume with some of her award winning plants. Reading from left to right, princess of the show, Double Blue Warrior, National Gold Ribbon Award, Select Double Garnet, White Pride, Autumn, Ro-Shep Award, T. V. Summer Dream, and she is holding queen of the show, Double One. 2 - Mrs. Helen Oliver, president Paradise Green African Violet Society. 3 - At the Union County show, left to right, Messres. E. L. Klotz, H. K. Dunn, G. B. Hudson. 4 - Mr. and Mrs. George Gillen of Lynbrook, N. Y., won the tricolor and the founders trophy for the best plant in the Long Island Society show. The picture shows Homer Boltz, chairman of the show, presenting trophy and expressing congratulations to the Gillens. 5 - Bay County Florida Society theme. 6 - One of the award winning plants at the Des Moines show.

SHOW News and Views

Deadline dates: For December issue September 1st; For March issue December 1st; For June issue March 1st; for September issue June 1st.

A few items you should know: No photos can be returned. Please do NOT SEND ME NEGATIVES. Please send no newspaper clippings. Show News must be confined to 200 words or less.

Eunice Fisher, Show Editor, Route 3, Box 284, Oshkosh, Wisconsin

● THE FIRST AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY of Cary, North Carolina, will hold its third show March 7-8, 1959, at the American Legion Hut in Cary.

● THE OMAHA AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB will hold its annual show March 14-15, 1959, at the Joslyn Art Museum at Omaha, Nebraska. Mrs. L. L. Rentschler and Mrs. E. H. Turek are show chairmen.

● THE JAMESTOWN AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB will hold its spring show in the Mongolia Room of Hotel Jamestown, April 11-12, 1959, at Jamestown, New York. Mrs. Vernon Burmeister is show chairman.

● THE FIRST AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY of Dallas, Texas, will stage a competitive show February 28-March 1, 1959, at Lambert's Landscape Company on Northwest Highway. The theme of the show will be "African Violets in Focus." Mrs. Luther Jordan will serve as chairman.

● THE BALTIMORE WEST END VIOLET CLUB held its show May 9-10, 1958, at the Edmondson Village Hall in Baltimore, Maryland. The theme of the show was "Pretty as a Picture."

● THE LORAIN COUNTY AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY held its third annual show May 9-10, 1958, at O'Neil's Auditorium, Elyria, Ohio. Mrs. William Griffin, show chairman; Mrs. John Reinhardt, cochairman. Judges were Mrs. John Held, Cleveland, Ohio; Mrs. Leslie Conant, Bay Village, Ohio; Mrs. Pearle Turner, Akron, Ohio.

Mrs. Leonard Grahn took the sweepstakes award; Mrs. John Reinhardt won queen of the show, and the award for the smallest blooming plant. Mrs. Russell Page was given a tri-honor award for her episcia display.



This outstanding exhibit, "The World Is Your Garden," staged by the African Violet Society of Greater New York at the 1958 International Flower Show in New York City, drew thousands of interested visitors to the booth. Pictured are Paul Younger, Mrs. Robert E. Nagle and Mrs. Gertrude Ferris who, with many other members of the African Violet Society of Greater New York, manned this prize winning display which carried comprehensive information on the activities of the Society, how to grow the African violet from a leaf to a mature plant, magazines, books, and other descriptive literature pertaining to the culture of the Saintpaulia. The African Violet Society of Greater New York is composed of eighty active members who gave many hours' time and effort toward the arranging and successful staging of this beautiful exhibit.

● "Any Time is Violet Time" was the theme of the second annual African violet show staged in Albemarle, North Carolina, by the STANLY COUNTY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB. It took place on May 3-4, 1958, in the Confederate Motors Building show room. Mrs. J. Theo Hinson was show chairman. Accredited judges were Mrs. D. P. Whitley and Miss Evelyn Gallant of High Point, North Carolina, and Mrs. H. G. Waff of Cary, North Carolina.

White Pride Supreme, entered by Mrs. Fay Misenheimer, won tricolor ribbon for best plant in the show. Mrs. Robert Hatley won a blue ribbon for her theme display. She also was given a blue ribbon for the large calendar depicting the seasons and months of the year. Mrs. Glenn Frick received a blue ribbon for her Maypole table.

Mrs. Ruth Patton and Mrs. Fay Misenheimer tied for the most blue ribbons. Mrs. John Rogers of Oakboro, North Carolina, won the show prize which was a strawberry jar filled with growing violets.

1 - Seated, left to right, Mrs. Grant Merrill and Mrs. Leland Merrill. Standing, Mrs. Henry Marshall and Mrs. John Rafferty, president of the Community African Violet Club. The window display was the central exhibit of the show. 2 - At the Harmony African Violet Society show, left to right, Messrs. W. T. Kirtley, C. O. Miller, Hollis Peterson. 3 - Mrs. Howard Clough, Mrs. Mildred Pachowiak, Mrs. William Peckat of the Michigan City Violeteers. 4 - Pictured at the Springfield, Missouri Chapter show are: left to right, Messrs. Everett Herrick, president, John Skinner, Blanche Brown. 5 - Admiring a prize winning arrangement at the Raleigh African Violet show are Mrs. J. Silvers and Mrs. O. D. Fleming, Jr. 6 - Two members of the African Violet Society of the Muscle Shoals Area look over one of the display tables.





1 - Looking over some of the exhibits at the Rosewood African Violet Club are: left to right, Mrs. Harrison March, Mrs. August Seegar (a guest), and Mrs. Russell French. 2 - The Uncle Sam African Violet Society, Troy, N. Y. 3 - Mrs. Fred Tretter and Mrs. S. E. Shantz of the Metropolitan St. Louis Council of African Violet Clubs. 4 - The attractive theme arrangement of the Haines City African Violet Society.

● **THE FIRST AFRICAN VIOLET STUDY CLUB** of Ashtabula, Ohio, held its annual spring show May 7-8, 1958. Mrs. Frank Piper was chairman. A plant of Sea Sprite won the gold rosette, as queen of the show, for Mrs. Gordon Conley. Mrs. Conley also was winner of the sweepstakes. One of the most unusual exhibits was a plant of Innocence that was grown in a hollowed out natural sponge.

● **THE AMETHYST AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB** of Dayton, Ohio, contributed the Educational Exhibit and Plant Display of African violets at the flower show of the Dayton Council of Garden Clubs in April, 1958. This show was held at Memorial Hall.

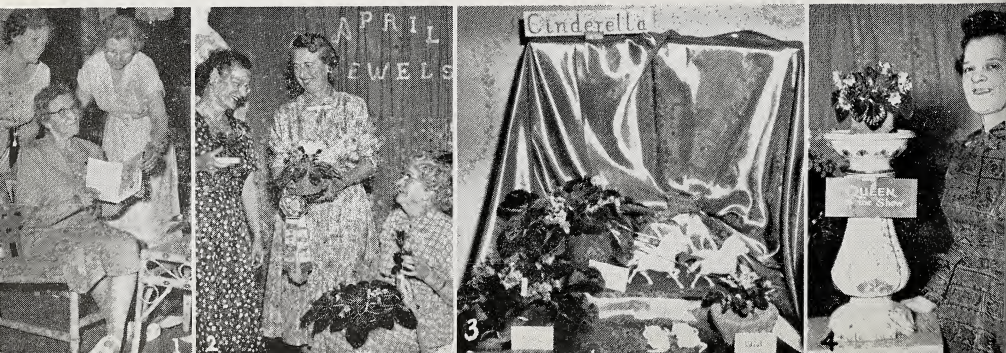
● **THE PHOENIX AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB** held its second show with the theme "Showers of Violets," on March 23, 1958. About 150 entries were shown with a plant of T-V Summer Dream winning best plant in the show. Mrs. M. J. Silverman entered the plant. The sweepstakes in Horticultural Division went to Mrs. B. F. Hill, and in the arrangement section, to Mrs. S. R. Stevens. The tricolor ribbon for the best arrangement went to Mrs. M. Y. Carpenter. Mrs. S. R. Stevens was general chairman; Miss Betty Schimek, staging chairman.

● **THE KITCHENER-WATERLOO AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB** held its annual tea, May 3, 1958, at Trinity United Hall in Kitchener, Ontario, Canada. The theme, "A Symphony of Violets," was carried out with miniature musical instruments in many of the displays. Tea tables were covered with pale pink cloths with violets in the center. Displays ranged from "The Old Rugged Cross," to a novelty farmyard with the violets used as a windbreak. Outstanding musical themes were: "April in Paris," "Surrey with the Fringe on Top," "Tea for Two," "Summertime," and "Winter Wonderland."

● **THE RACINE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** of Racine, Wisconsin, staged a beautiful show June 7-8, 1958, at the Douglas Park Community Center with the theme, "Violets Oriental." The theme was carried out by the use of a large black and gold oriental pink pagoda. Japanese lanterns cast a soft light on a plant of Pink Masterpiece placed on a low black table.

Entries for the National Awards were displayed on a special table covered with charcoal cloth, using pink ribbons to divide the entries. A special display table had new introductions from the 1958

1 - Left to right, Mrs. D. E. Buchta, Miss Anne Neitzel (seated), Mrs. Ray Reed of the Racine, Wisconsin Society. 2 - Award winners at the Inglewood, California African Violet Society. 3 - A display by Mrs. O. E. Wilson at the Sheridan African Violet Club show, Sheridan, Wyoming. 4 - Mrs. Harry Laughlin, Happy Ours African Violet Club, and her queen of the show plant.



National Convention, and it received the green ribbon award. Clifford Maresh entered the educational exhibit.

Gem of the show, Pink Camellia, won a purple rosette for Mrs. Ray Reed. Mrs. L. Ludwig won a rosette for her screen arrangement, Dragon at Play. Mrs. Gerald Houdek won a purple rosette for her table setting. Mrs. Frank Luedtke was given a purple rosette for her plant of Beacon Lady.

Displays were also entered by THE MILWAUKEE COUNTY AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY and THE KENOSHA AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB.

● THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF SAN FRANCISCO participated in the annual San Francisco Flower Show held in the City Hall Rotunda August 21-22, 1958. Miss Carolyn won the sweepstakes in the beginners class; Mrs. Alice Black in the amateur class.

Best plant in the show, also the largest, was San Juan grown by Mrs. Black. Judges were Mrs. Lillian Bragg, Mrs. Millie Blair, and Mrs. Richard Michon. Mrs. Edward Nienstadt, Jr., was chairman of the African violet division.

● "Any Time is Violet Time" was the theme of the fifth annual African violet show held by the SEATTLE SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY in the Wilsonian Hotel on June 7 and 8, 1958.

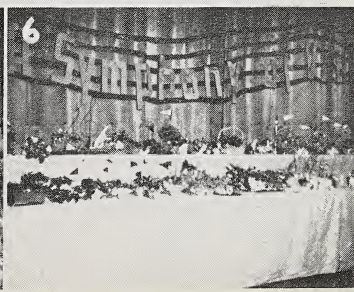
The proceeds will benefit the society's garden-therapy projects at the Children's Orthopedic Hospital, the Veterans Administration Hospital, and several other hospitals and sanatoriums in the area.

Members of the society regularly visit the hospitals, taking plants to the patients and showing them how to care for them. They also furnish plants to decorate the hospital recreation and dining rooms.

● THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA, held its show April 30 — May 1, 1958, with the theme of "Springtime with African Violets." The best theme arrangement trophy was awarded to Mrs. Clarence Wilson of Bellflower. The Carolyn Rector seedling trophy went to Mrs. Edward Koran. Mrs. Carolyn Rector of San Pedro won a trophy for her specimen seedling. Mrs. Leo Thalheimer won the trophy given for the most unusual California miniature, Cinderella's Slipper.

Blue Nocturne was judged queen of the show and the trophy was given to Mrs. Leo Thalheimer; she also won the sweepstakes award. Mrs. Iva Dorman won the rosette given by the African Violet Council of Southern California for the best California developed African violet. My Hope, introduced by John Rymer of Bellflower in 1956, won the award. On the show committee were Mrs. Edward Koran, John Rymer, and Mrs. Leo Thalheimer.

1 - Pictured at the African Violet Society of Canton, Ohio show are: front row left to right, Messres. Ralph Hill, H. J. Ehret, Carl Hoglund, back row, Henry Bircher, V. J. Frank, S. S. Courtney. 2 - Display at the High Point African Violet Club, High Point, N. C. 3 - Mrs. A. A. Rose, Story City, Iowa with three of her prize winning plants at the Story City Society show. 4 - Looking at a group of entries at the Columbus African Violet show are Mrs. Albert Baumunk, Mrs. Eugene Zeller and Mrs. Leroy Tucker. 5 - A photograph of the Springfield, Pennsylvania Club at the tenth anniversary violet exhibit. 6 - Kitchener-Waterloo African Violet Club, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada theme of the show exhibit. .



● **HIGH POINT AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** used the theme of "End of the Rainbow" for its show, held in the High Point, Thomasville, and Denton Railway Office Building. Sweepstakes winner was Mrs. D. P. Whitely. Mrs. C. A. Daniels was runner-up. The National Gold Ribbon Award for the best collection of three was won by Mrs. C. A. Daniels. The best arrangement was entered by Mrs. W. L. Welborn. The best composition award went to Mrs. D. P. Whitely. Mrs. Whitely also entered the largest plant. Mrs. C. A. Daniels was given the tricolor award for a plant of Blue Dart.

The merit system was used by the judges, Mrs. Hugh Kellam, of High Point, Mrs. Robert Hatley of Albemarle, and Mrs. Margaret Waff of Cary.

● **UNION COUNTY CHAPTER OF AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** of Westfield, New Jersey, used "Command Performance" as its theme for the fifth annual show. The sweepstakes award went to Mrs. Glenn B. Hudson. Queen of the show award was given to Mrs. Hugh K. Dunn of Summit for her plant of White Madonna. Runner-up award went to Mrs. C. B. Ward, Florham Park. Mrs. Andrew Girgus won a National membership to the African Violet Society and a year's membership to the Union County Chapter for an outstanding entry. The rosette of the New Jersey Council of African Violet Clubs went to Mrs. Glenn B. Hudson of Westfield. The National Gold Ribbon Award went to Mrs. C. B. Ward of Florham Park.

There were many winning specimens entered. The judges were Mrs. Estelle Sachs, Mrs. Betty Skelton, Mrs. Thomas Everist, Mrs. Lillian Swem, and Mrs. Walter Minschwaner. A number of arrangements were judged by Mrs. George A. Hoffmann, Mrs. Richard S. Chatfield, and Mrs. I. S. Rossiter. Mrs. Hugh Dunn and Mrs. H. L. Waterhouse served as show chairmen.

● **THE FIRST AFRICAN VIOLET OF LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA**, staged its eighth annual show at the First National Bank and Trust Company Installment Loan Office, May 3-4, 1958. The theme of the show was "Violets in the Windows." A luncheon was served before the show. The table was decorated by Mrs. J. E. Jarrett. Mrs. Claude Thornhill won the sweepstakes award, best plant

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CLASS — Three specimen plants (1 true purple, 1 pink, and 1 white, any variety) scoring the highest points. Each plant must score at least 85 points. These plants are to be entered in the regular classes for true purples, pinks, and whites.

PREVIOUS WINNERS —

- 1953 — Mrs. Ronald B. Reaume, Detroit, Michigan.
- 1954 — Mrs. E. L. Perdue, Donaldson, Tennessee.
- 1955 — Rev. Harold L. Thompson, Birmingham, Michigan.
- 1956 — Mrs. L. A. Beck, St. Joseph, Missouri.
- 1957 — Mrs. J. R. Bush, Muncie, Kansas.
- 1958 — Mrs. Edward Casey, Rochester, New York

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in the show, and the National Gold Ribbon Award. Judges were Mrs. R. R. Blackburn, Mrs. D. W. Hackney, Mrs. C. A. Daniels, and Mrs. Joe Weaver. Mrs. J. L. Jones was chairman of staging, Miss Florence Adams was chairman of the show, assisted by Mrs. C. L. Orndorff as cochairman.

● **THE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL OF AFRICAN VIOLETS CLUBS** of St. Louis decorated the Show home in Shaw's Gardens (the Missouri Botanical Garden) with African violets as they would be used in anyone's home. The display was opened to the public from May 2 through 11, 1958. Women of the council acted as hostesses daily. Voluntary contributions made by visitors went to the Botanical Garden.

● **THE SAINTPAULIANS**, of Portland, Oregon, recently entered a display in the May 3-4 show of the Portland Chapter of African Violet Society, winning the ribbon for the best display by an outside club. In accordance with the theme of the show, "Violets in the Window" the display consisted of a nine-lite window sash which had been gilded and placed in front of an aqua-blue background. In each pane of the sash was placed some of our members' choice African violets. Beside the sash and in front of the background was placed a wrought-iron stand holding an *Episcia* Bronze Queen. At the base of this stand were two symmetrical violets, Heart Throb, and a miniature plant of *Ashes of Roses*. The entire display was placed on a black table cover.

● **THE PARADISE GREEN SAINTPAULIA CLUB** held its third annual show May 3-4, 1958, at the Garden Exchange, Trumbull, Connecticut. The theme of the show was "Around the World With Violets." Centered around a large globe of the world, flanked by two American flags, and displays of New York and California were ten cubes representing foreign countries. Each country was planned by a member as follows: Mexico Mrs. Fred Nelson, Alaska Miss Doris Steener, China Mrs. Robert Johnson, Czechoslovakia Mrs. George Jankura, Africa Miss Hjalmar, Switzerland Mrs. Donald Swanson, England Mrs. Andrew Chickos, Holland Mrs. Frank Oliver, Scotland Mrs. Gordon Howes. All the members participated in a display of Egypt.

● **THE BALTIMORE WEST END AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB** held its fourth annual show at the Edmondson Village Hall, May 9-10, 1958. Mrs. Marie Tarr was show chairman, with Mrs. Helen Gray cochairman. The theme of the show was "Pretty as a Picture." It was carried out by using three antique picture frames, one large and two small ones, all with shadow boxes, containing beautiful violets.

Sweepstakes and outstanding plant trophy were won by Mrs. Tarr. Outstanding arrangement trophy was won by Mrs. Gray. The trophies were given by the Governor of Maryland, the Mayor of the City of Baltimore, and the Edmondson Village Merchants Association. Judges were Mrs. Herman Graf and Mrs. Harlan E. Grace.

● **THE CLEVELAND AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** held its show May 5-6, 1958, at Cleveland, Ohio. Mrs. Stephen Bekeney was show chairman.

A plant of *Strike-Me-Pink* won queen of the show for Mrs. Paul S. Jasko. Mrs. Gale Davies won the best single, with her plant of *T-V Handsome*. Mrs. Jasko's *Strike-Me-Pink* also won best double. Mrs. Loesch won best in miscellaneous with *Frosted Madonna*. Mrs. Paul Jasko's plant of *Holly* was best plant not in bloom. Mrs. Henry Loesch won the Ohio state award. Mrs. Frank Pochurek won first in the arrangements class. The National Society Awards went to Mrs. Henry Loesch for her plants of *Double Pink Cheer*, *White Madonna*, and *Emperor Wilhelm*. Mrs. Orisek of Parma won first in the nonmember class with a plant of *Edith Cavell*.

● **THE COMMUNITY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB** of Malden and Melrose, Massachusetts, held its fourth annual show on May 6, 1958, at the First Methodist Church in Melrose. The theme "Violets in New England Windows" was interpreted in numerous ways. Several actual windows were set up with groups of plants arranged in front of them. Show chairman was Mrs. Henry Marshall who was assisted by Mrs. Leland Merrill, Miss Dorothy Rothe, Mrs. Irving Cole, Mrs. Grant Merrill and Mrs. Homer Baggs. There were more than three hundred plants on display.

● **THE LOS ANGELES AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** held its eighth annual show at Los Angeles, May 9-10, 1958, with Mrs. Clarissa Harris as show chairman. Theme of the show was "African Violets Around the World." It was beautifully and dramatically presented by the staging chairman, Mrs. May Hess.

The National Gold Ribbon Award was won by Mrs. Mabel Gutridge. Mrs. Gutridge also carried off queen of the show, princess of the show, the Southern California council award, sweepstakes for the most blue ribbons, and twelve rosettes for best in a class. Sweepstakes runner-up was Mrs. Margaret Goehler. Best arrangement was won by Mrs. Norinne Castle. Mrs. Ethel Thalheimer captured the cup for the educational display, and Mrs. S. Carson took the best miniature award. Mrs. Margaret Goehler won the best miniature arrangement, and the award for most perfectly grown plant. Mrs. Gutridge won the *Ro-Shep* award.

Mrs. Cecil Houdyshel and Everett Hammond presented commercial displays.

● **THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF BAY COUNTY, FLORIDA**, comprising the Dixie Moonbeam Chapter and the Violet Sunset Chapter, presented its third annual all African violet show May 12-13, 1958, at Panama City, Florida, Garden Center.



1 - The focal point of the Racine, Wisconsin African Violet Society show. 2 - Mrs. Vernon Barmeister, show chairman for the Jamestown African Violet Society show. 3 - Display by Mrs. Edith Lowry and Mrs. Ruby Bickley at the Chico African Violet Society show. 4 - Mrs. Dorothy Parker, sweepstakes winner, and Mrs. Mildred Rocheld, whose plant was queen of the show at the Pomona Valley Chapter show. 5 - April Showers was the show theme of the African Violet Society of Washington, Pennsylvania. 6 - A view of one of the prize winning plants at The Saintpaulians show, Portland, Oregon.

"April Showers Will Bring Violets" was the theme of the show, carried out by beautiful staging under the leadership of Mrs. Frank Huebscher as show chairman, and Mrs. Lucile Wasson as cochairman. The violet, Marine, won the queen of the show award for Mrs. Ethel A. Keley. Tricolor award in arrangements was won by Mrs. Frank Huebscher. The blue medallion sweepstakes for horticulture went to Mrs. Ethel A. Kelley, the red medallion to Mrs. A. W. Aldridge and Mrs. Frank Huebscher won the white medallion.

Sweepstakes award for arrangements went to Mrs. Frank Huebscher for the blue medallion; Mrs. A. W. Aldridge the red medallion; Mrs. A. A. Voss, the white medallion.

Judges for the show were Mrs. R. M. Pyle, Jr., Mrs. Roy C. Smith, Mrs. Joycelin Lloyd, Mrs. J. N. Campbell, and Mrs. W. B. Colvin, Jr. from Pensacola, Florida. Mrs. Leo Bevon, Mrs. G. B. Oden, Mrs. J. H. Wood, and Miss Jane Wicht, all from Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

● **THE NORTH SHORE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** of Lynn, Massachusetts, held its third annual African violet show on the afternoon and evening of May 10, 1958, at American Legion Hall. Mrs. Cecil Grist, Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts, served as judge. Plants were judged by the merit system and a total of twenty-three awards were given to plants grown by Miss Dorothy Hutchinson and exhibited by her sister, Mrs. Madeline Reed. She also received an award for the best plant in the show and for the largest plant in the show.

Mrs. Karl Ohlson received sixteen awards for her entries. She had runner-up for best in show, best collection, best arrangement, and for her horticulture table.

The show was under the general chairmanship of the president, Mrs. Perley E. Knight.

● **THE COLUMBUS AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** held its annual African violet show May 19-20, 1958, at the Morehouse-Fashion Department Store, Columbus, Ohio. In the theme, "Hats Off to African Violets," there were three hundred one entries, twenty-eight of which were arrangements in unusual containers.

Mrs. Ralph Meeker, entering her first show, walked off with most of the honors: National Gold Ribbon Award, state silver ribbon award, queen of the show, princess of the show, Hulda Evans award, highest scoring blue plant, sweepstakes award, and novice sweepstakes. Novice sweepstakes award was given to some one who had most blue ribbons, but had never received more than two blue ribbons before.

Mrs. Barton Hunt won the daylight award which was for the highest scoring plant grown exclusively by daylight.

Mrs. C. H. Bradshaw had the largest plant in the show, and Mrs. Milton Boone won the ribbon for the smallest blooming plant. Mrs. Leroy Tucker was the junior sweepstakes award winner.

The show was under the able direction of Mrs. Albert Baumunk as chairman with Mrs. Eugene Zellar, cochairman.

● **THE SAINTPAULIA STUDY CLUB** of Atlanta, Georgia, held its annual show at Tom Mitchell Buick Show Rooms May 3-4, 1958. It was a noncompetitive show with nearly five hundred plants exhibited. In October, the club was the hostess club for the Dixie African Violet Society show held in Atlanta.

● **THE OMAHA AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB** opened its eleventh annual show on March 1-2, 1958, at the Joslyn Art Museum. The theme of this show was "A Rainbow of Violets." This was carried out by a center display with violets in a semicircle to form a rainbow with a pot of gold at the end. Also the fountain in the floral court had a rainbow over it and flowers on Styrofoam floated around and in the corners of the fountain.

Violets were displayed around the court on tiered tables covered with gold. Two hundred and fifty varieties were shown, with a total of three hundred and fifty plants on display.

● **THE WILLOWS AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** held its first independent show on February 28th, 1958. This show was noncompetitive with nearly all plants shown belonging to the members.

Mrs. C. J. Whiting presided over the guest book table. Display tables were covered with lime green corrugated paper and backed with silver foil. Side tables were lighted with fluorescent lights, and at the center, back of side tables, three small turntables revolved slowly each holding a lovely violet. A huge violet totem pole, also on a turntable, was made up by Bud Winter. There was also an educational exhibit and samples from scrap books and year books.

● **THE FIRST AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF CARY, NORTH CAROLINA**, held its second annual show March 1-2, 1958, at the American Legion Hut in Cary. "African Violets in Foreign Countries" was the theme of the show. Twelve members each corresponded with a country, and carried out an idea about that country. Southern Rhodesia, Cuba, East Africa, South Africa, England, Hawaii, China, India, British West Indies, South America, Puerto Rica, and New Zealand were the countries used. The show was noncompetitive.

CORRECTION — Stim-U-Plant Award for the best red African violet. The award was listed in the magazine as Caravan Masquerade which is a blue variety. Masquerader, a single red, unregistered plant was the winner.

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VIOLET INSTALLATION

Beatrice E. Reese, St. Petersburg, Florida

The installation of officers of the African Violet Club for the ensuing year is indeed, an important event. From this day hence the actions, deeds, even the thoughts of those to be installed, shall be written upon the pages of time.

The welfare, prosperity and success of this organization depends greatly on the attitudes of the officers. Neither by word nor deed must they violate the trust and confidence placed in them by the membership.

Let us look, for a moment, at the lovely, delicate, domesticated beauty of the purple violet. Only with loving care does it thrive and flower. Cannot the African Violet Club be likened unto the plant itself?

The flower in full bloom represents the president. The bud, yet to mature, the vice-president. The leaves, where health and history are written, the secretary. The stock that carries life to the leaves and flowers, the treasurer.

The flowers, buds, leaves and stock of our plant are in full view for all to see. Yet, the most important part of this beautiful plant, the root system, is hidden. From the roots, which represents the membership, comes life. Without these roots our plant would wither and pass away. Thus, this club would also wither and pass away if it were not for an interested and co-operative membership.

Each flower of our violet plant must mature, then move on to be replaced by another. Be

generous in your expression of appreciation for the work done by your officers. Be especially kind to the one you have chosen as your leader. Remember, while the rest of the plant lives on, the flower remains for such a little while. And in thinking of our cherished violet plant, let us not forget HIM, from whom all things come.

(Arrange officers to be installed, as desired. If corsages are to be used, they should be presented by an assistant.)

President: Mrs. _____, the office of president is one of both honor and responsibility. As the flower of our violet plant brings beauty, rhythm, symmetry to the beholder, so you shall bring inspiration and order to this club.

It shall be your duty to preside at the meetings of the African Violet Club and to perform such other duties as may pertain to your office. Mrs. _____, do you accept?

Purple has long been associated with leadership and the gavel is an emblem of authority. I now present to you this gavel, tied with its purple ribbon, as a symbol of your office.

Vice-President: Mrs. _____, you have been elected to serve as vice-president of the African Violet Club, for the ensuing year. Your office represents the bud of our violet plant, for you have yet to mature into a position of leadership. As the bud is a promise of full blown beauty for tomorrow, so your office is a promise for the continuance of this organization. It shall be your duty to assume the position of the president, in the absence of that officer and to perform such other duties as may pertain to your office. Mrs. _____, do you accept?

Secretary: Mrs. _____, the office of secretary is one of intelligence and trust. Against nature's abundant background of green leaves we marvel at the array of her rampant colors, for without the contrasting leaves the flowers would be dull. Without the history that will be written into the minutes of this club, the future would be dull for those to follow.

It shall be your duty to keep a record of the activities of the African Violet Club and to perform such other duties as may pertain to your office. Mrs. _____, do you accept?

Treasurer: Mrs. _____, you have been elected to serve as treasurer of the African Violet Club, for the ensuing year. Life for the flower, bud and leaf of our plant must come thru the stock. It is in your trust that the financial life of this club is stored.

It shall be your duty to give an accounting of all monies received and disbursed and to perform such other duties as may pertain to your office. Mrs. _____, do you accept?

I now declare the officers of the African Violet Club duly installed for the year 19_____. Note: This was used by the author to install the officers of the Sunshine City African Violet Club, St. Petersburg, Florida. end

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Maisie Yakie, Librarian, P. O. Box 674
Port Arthur, Texas

It hardly seems possible, but once again the year has come full circle and holiday time is here. Let us remember shut-ins, those in hospitals and institutions, and others who would enjoy the spirit of the season generated by a gift of a lovely African violet plant in full bloom, gaily decked in a colored foil skirt.

The first program suggestion that I have to offer this time is for a program on "Registration of a Plant." This idea comes from the year book of the Sheridan African Violet Club, Sheridan, Wyoming, which has twenty-seven members. The correct and full information on what procedure is followed, the aims of the Society in establishing the registration of plants, etc., can be obtained from Mrs. Constance Hansen, Box 302, Lafayette, California. I sincerely think there is a wide need for a greater and fuller understanding of this phase of the Society's work.

As the winter closes in, we find that our interests turn to dried arrangements in the flower arranging field, and perhaps such is also the case with our African violet arrangements. A program could be particularly fascinating, if well-planned in advance, showing the various steps necessary for successfully drying African violet blossoms, for arranging, then showing the use of these dried blossoms in arrangements, plaques, pictures, etc. I may be wrong but I think this would particularly appeal to the older members of our clubs who have more time than the younger contingent, and who could many times find a place in their decorating for such plaques and pictures. The Library has a book on drying flowers (not necessarily African violets) and one or two clipped magazine articles on this subject as well. Please request them if you are interested. This suggestion is taken from the year book of the Kewensis African Violet Society, Dayton, Ohio (twenty-one members, organized in 1949).

From the Suburban Saintpaulia Society, Arlington Heights, Ill., comes a suggestion on "Table Settings Using African Violets," planned and displayed by hostesses each month. This could be worked in as a part of each program, or one program could be entirely devoted to this, with each member (if a smaller club) being responsible for one demonstration (perhaps each set up on a card table) or if it is a large group, the group could be divided into smaller groups of, say five, members and each group set up such a demonstration. I might add that the Suburban Saintpaulia Society won third prize for their year book at the Rochester Convention. They

have twenty members and were organized in December, 1954.

A new slide program now available is "Go West, Young Man," and is comprised of slides of many California varieties. This is not completed, but there are sufficient slides for a good program, and we are hoping that some of the West Coast clubs and individuals will be sufficiently interested in showing off their beauties to contribute additional slides.

It was the intention of the writer to do this last time, but it completely slipped my memory so I would like to let you know now that the Board of Directors has lifted the rule that allowed only four slide programs per year to each club. It is now on a first come, first served basis with the right to use as many slide programs as the individual clubs desire.

Secondly, I would like to advise that the President, Mr. Harvey, appointed the following members to the Library Committee, and I am indeed grateful for their help: Mrs. Barbara Rodgers, Scarboro, Ontario, Canada; Mrs. Grace Grissom and Miss Janice Rohatsch, both of Houston, Texas.

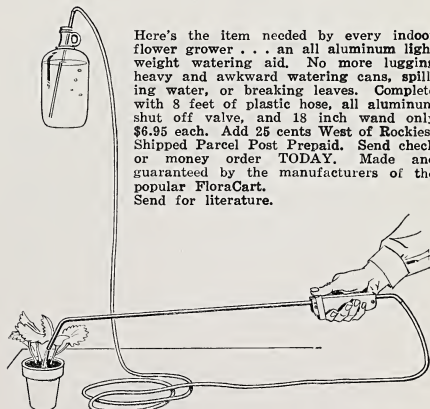
Wishing you each and all the happiest and merriest Christmas and may God be good to you in the New Year. end

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QUESTION BOX



Lois Minehan

29 Circuit Drive

Binghamton, N. Y.

Q. I have an interesting development. I have two leaves that are rooted and even have small plants developing on the roots but on the mother leaf is a plant too. It did not have roots when I cut it from the leaf, leaving about one-fourth inch of the old leaf attached to it. I put it in my usual soil mixture and it is growing. What sort of a violet will it be? Has anyone had a similar experience? If so, I should like to hear from him.

Mrs. Ralph Wiley, 113 South Ferry, Ottumwa, Ia.

A. The young plant that grew on the mother leaf will be the same variety as the mother leaf, just the same as a sucker taken from the plant will be the same as the plant. If small plantlets appearing on the mother leaf are removed as they form, the strength of the mother leaf will go into the plantlets forming at the roots and produce better plantlets there.

To Barbara J. Dry, Blairstown, New Jersey

Write to the following places for catalogues about wick pots: Velva Artcrafts, Bohemia, L. I., New York, and The House Plant Corner, P. O. Box 810, Oxford, Maryland.

Mrs. Greta V. Ramsay, 1283 N. Sedeeva Circle Clearwater, Florida.

Mr. Frank Tinari of Bethayres, Pennsylvania has glasswicks advertised in his latest catalog.

Mrs. Henry W. Derby, 327 Penn St., Burlington, N. Y.

The Quality Molding Company, 4541 W. Diversey, Chicago 39, Ill., makes these pots in several sizes and quite a nice variety of colors. I buy them locally at several stores, but the only national chain of stores that carries them is Woolworth's. They are far less expensive than the ceramic pots of the same type and are very attractive. I have successfully used quite a number of these pots and would recommend them to anyone interested in wick pots.

Margaret Coburn, 6350 Holdrege, Lincoln, Neb.

Q. Our violet club purchased the book, "1001 African Violet Questions Answered," but I could not find a single article that mentioned anything about a plant that pollenized itself. I would like to know how this happens and if the seeds will grow and make plants. Can you tell me? Mrs. Ruth Jessup, 431 S. Jay St., Denver, Colo.

A. Pollination may have occurred through the assistance of insects or an air current; and, sometimes, the style grows up through the anther and the flower pollinates itself. The seeds from self-pollination will grow and produce plants.

Q. I note with great interest that Bill Smithson, in his article on page 8, September, 1957 Magazine, titled "Ideas From the Heart of America," uses one teaspoon of dry Fermate to each three pound bag of soil. Could you tell us more about this? Hope that others who have used it in the same way will write in and tell us about it.

Mrs. H. T. Morgan, 106 W. Bacon St., Plainsville, Mass.

A. It is believed that Fermate, when added to the soil mixture, will lessen or prevent trouble with crown rot.

As insurance against rot, some people like to add Fermate to the rooting powder, combining a teaspoon of it with a teaspoon of the rooter.

Q. Please tell me whether young plants coming out around the edge of the mother leaf (see drawing) is a normal procedure? What will happen?

Lucille LaTosca, 58 Chestnut St. Cypress Hills, Brooklyn, New York.



A. This happens quite frequently. They can be removed, which encourages plantlets to come up in the regular manner; or they can be left until they have reached a sufficient size that they can be removed and rooted in vermiculite.

Q. I am having trouble with my violets which I am unable to diagnose. The outer leaves on many of the plants turn very dark green, become flat, shiny, hairless, and extremely brittle. This condition does not seem to fit any pest or disease I know of and only vaguely the symptoms of mites. Could you, or any of your readers, throw some light on this problem?

Mrs. Boyd Proudfit, 160 E. 81st St., New York 28, N. Y.

A. Leaves on some plants will become very stiff if they are receiving too strong a light or too much fertilizer; also, an overly acid soil can cause this condition.

Q. I have noticed reference in the African Violet Magazine to Volck for use in spray for rust. Apparently Volck is a fungicide. Can you tell me where this may be secured or by whom it is made?

George F. Patterson, 13 Norris St., Wellsboro, Pa.

A. Volck is available at some hardware stores selling garden supplies. It is manufactured by the California Spray-Chemical Corporation, which has offices at Richmond, California; St. Louis, Missouri; Orlando, Florida, and South Plainfield, New Jersey.

Q. When cutting leaves for rooting, should the entire stem be removed from the plant or should I remove leaves, say two, from opposite sides? Will you give me the best way or suggested way? Edna D. Edwards, Core Point, Blount's Creek, N. C.

A. When cutting leaves for rooting, remove the entire petiole at the main stem of the plant, then cut off enough so there is about one and one-half inches remaining on the leaf blade. Firm, healthy, young, medium-sized leaves of good color should be used. When removing the leaves from the plant, try to select those whose removal will not spoil the shape of the plant.

Q. The leaves of my violets seem firm enough, but they turn down or under the edges. I usually remove my violets once a year and also feed with a well-balanced plant food—Plant Marvel and Ra-Pid-Gro and also spray with Plant Marvel Spray. At the present some of my blooms are small. Will appreciate any help anyone can give me.

Mrs. Carl Main, 501 First St., Piqua, Ohio

A. Too little light or too cold a location can cause leaves to curl around the pot. Try letting the light come down on top of the crown; the foliage should rise again as new growth is produced. A white or glass shelf also tends to pull the foliage down.

Blossoms need the proper light, temperature, humidity and soil fertility to attain their proper size.

Q. I have a problem which I hope you can help me with. I have a very pretty plant, a Pom Pom, bought last summer from the Violet Treasure House of Springdale, Ark. When I got this plant it was small and in a one and one-half inch pot. After it started growing I transplanted it to a two and one-half inch pot. While it was in this pot it had its first bud which opened and was beautiful. Later it was loaded with buds but none of them opened. It would grow until it was almost ready to open, then start turning brown and dry up. I changed it to a three inch pot but it is still doing the same way. I have an Edna Fischer which is doing the same way. I have ten other blooming plants and all of them have the

same treatment. All are beautiful, healthy plants, shiny and pretty, and I can't understand what the trouble is.

Mrs. Ann A. Payne, 600 E. Tyler St., Athens, Tex.

A. Lack of humidity, lack of fresh air, poor circulation of air, or artificial gas fumes may cause buds to blight and not bloom. Sudden changes of temperature or humidity, such as bringing a plant from a greenhouse into a home atmosphere, might give the plant enough shock to cause buds to blight.

Q. I do not sell violets or leaves. I have about one hundred plants. I ordered twelve plants last fall and some of them got something wrong with them when I had them a short time. It was all in the buds. They got so hard and stiff that if I tried to move them they would break. I wrote the dealer about the plants and they sent me a bottle of something to spray them with. I saved all but one plant. What I would like to know is what caused this trouble? No one here seems to know.

Mrs. Nora Kiechle, 812 Park Ave., Utica, N. Y.

A. Readers, your help on this problem please.

Q. Could you give me a list of good publications on African violets? We seem to be troubled with some unusual diseases in our area. We are in the rich "pear" country and, of course, the bad bugs get into our houses and plants. One lady here has quite a problem. Looks like she is going to lose her whole collection. You can see the little white insects crawling on the plants and nothing—Isotox solution—just nothing, has cured the plants.

Mrs. John Mendenhall, P. O. Box 488, Courtland, Calif.

A. 1001 African Violet Questions Answered by Twelve Experts, edited by Helen Van Pelt Wilson

All About African Violets, by Montague Free

An Easy Guide to African Violets, by William Meacham

Complete Book of African Violets, by Helen Van Pelt Wilson

How to Grow African Violets, by Carolyn Rector

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2" round black saucers	1.25	2.25	4.00
3" round reg. or squatty pots	1.50	2.75	5.25
3" round black saucers	1.50	2.75	5.25
3" square pots	1.75	3.25	6.00
3 1/2" square pots	1.75	3.25	6.00
3 1/2" black square saucers	1.75	3.25	6.00
3 1/2" round reg. or squatty pots	1.75	3.25	6.00
4" round reg. or squatty pots	3.00	5.50	10.00
4" round black saucers	2.00	3.50	6.50
4" square pots	3.00	5.50	10.00
4" square black saucers	2.00	3.50	6.00
5" round squatty pots	5.00	9.50	
7" round reg. or squatty pots	7.50	14.50	
6" round black saucers	3.25	6.00	

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from varieties having "girl type" foliage —
150 seeds — \$1.00
- Mixture C —
from single flowered varieties crossed with double
flowered varieties —
150 seeds — \$2.00
- Mixture D —
from pink flowered varieties crossed with other
pink or white varieties —
150 seeds — \$2.00
- Mixture FM
Our best mixture, 300 seeds \$3.00 of fine hybrids,
mixed colors, frinkettes.
- Special Seed Starting tray containing excellent grow-
ing media designed for a "no failure" \$1.00 plus 25¢
for postage.

FOREST MILL

AFRICAN VIOLET SEED

1725 E. 35th St. Indianapolis, Ind.

SQUARE PLASTIC FLOWER POTS

Twenty-four square plastic flower pots for \$1.00
postpaid! 2" square by 2" deep, hold as much soil
as larger round pots but need less space for growing.
Perfect for seedlings, cuttings and rooting African
violet leaves. 4 drain holes for better root growth.
50 for \$1.75; 100 for \$3.00; 2 1/2" size 24 for \$1.50;
50 for \$2.75; 100 for \$5.25. 1959 catalog included
tells low quantity prices all types plastic plant pots.
60 illustrated pages unusual hard-to-find equipment
for African violets, all indoor plants. Send \$1.00
now!

THE HOUSE PLANT CORNER

Box 902 Oxford, Maryland

The new Antrol African violet and house plant
insect bomb is effective against tiny mealy bugs,
mites, aphids, exposed thrips, white flies and
other life-sucking parasites. Perhaps it would
be effective against the little white insects.

Q. Different people tell of the soil mixture they
use, but do not give the formula as to the amount
of nitrogen, phosphorus and other elements so
that we can test our soil and know that we are
feeding our plants correctly. Many of the pre-
parations given don't seem to be stocked locally
and it is very expensive to buy and have small
amounts shipped. If we knew the elements
required we might be able to substitute another
product. Can you help?

Mrs. Edith R. Logan, Ruthven, Iowa

A. Soils need a high phosphorus level, low
nitrogen level and medium potash level, with an
acidity of pH 6.5 to pH 7. A 5-10-5 fertilizer will
provide the three chemical ingredients. Steamed
bone meal will provide low nitrogen, high phos-
phorus, and muriate of potash supplies potash.

A soil testing kit gives fairly complete informa-
tion on the necessary ingredients to add to obtain
the correct balance.

Trace elements are necessary in very minute
quantities and most well-balanced commercial
fertilizers have the trace elements included.

Mrs. W. Edmund Follet, 13 Badger Dr. Bingham-
ton 97, N. Y.

Q. Where may African violet stickers be pur-
chased that may be used on the front cover of
year books or show cards?

A. Alma Wright, Box 1326, Knoxville, Tennessee
To Dr. Corlos O'Holine, Caracas, Venezuela.

I also find it very difficult to identify any
plants but those with the most outstanding char-
acteristics, and found it quite a frustrating ex-
perience when we lived in Brazil to get a plant
and not know its name. However, both Montague
Free's book "All About African Violets" and
Helen Van Pelt Wilson's book give a good many
descriptions and photographs. Both Fischer
Greenhouses, Linwood, New Jersey, and Tinari
Greenhouses, Bethayres, Pa., issue illustrated
catalogues. This would take care of some of the
more recent varieties. Carolyn Rector's Variety
List has gone into great detail to describe as
many known varieties as possible. I also find the
illustrations in the catalogues issued by Fischer
Greenhouses and Tinari Greenhouses very useful
for new varieties. Beyond that, only experience
will help and I know this is very difficult when
you live abroad. Horticulture, Popular Garden-
ing, and Flower Grower all have shown good
pictures from time to time. I have often wished
that color detail (like Tinari's use for some of
their plants) could appear in the African Violet
Magazine (a close-up of one blossom and leaf)
in addition to description. This would be really
helpful to people who live abroad.

Mrs. G. M. Johnson, P. O. Box 45, Hudson, P.
Quebec, Canada

To Major Wm. A. Haendges

Article and illustration page 64 Vol. No. 3, March 1958.

Haven't had much experience—but I had one pink violet send out small leaves on the blossom stem. After the blossoms wilted and were removed I took the stems, two of them, and put them in a pot of vermiculite. One grew and one died. Eventually I got a plant. Expect to try it again, and surely one can't lose much by the experiment. It seems to me that whatever you use for rooting leaves could be tried for these stems.

Fern E. Kruchten, 215 South 7th St., Fort Dodge, Iowa

To Major Wm. A. Haendges

On page 64 of Volume 11 Number 3 March, 1958, in the question column, Major Wm. A. Haendges asked about the two leaves on flower stems of some varieties making growth. In answer I will give you my experience with this type of flower stem.

After the flower withered I cut the old flower off close to the leaves, on four stems. Then I cut the stem off about one and a half inches below the leaves and put them in a dish of Terra-Lite. The stem rooted and the leaves developed a nice plant in ninety days time. One of these plants has a nice bloom on at this time. I started the stems in September of 1957.

Wilbert E. Zuver, 117 North Jefferson Ave., Canonsburg, Pa.

WICK-FED POTS

To Barbara J. Dry, Blairstown, N. J.

Horticulture (the lovely magazine issued by Massachusetts Horticulture Society), Vol. 33 p 18, January, 1955, has a very good story by Patricia C. Ffoulkes. Wick-fed pots spelled success for me when it came to getting violets to flower, especially in our heated homes. The planter I like best is a plastic one with the saucer open, so you do not need to lift the pot in order to fill the container. In fact, the pot is clamped on and both can be readily moved from one place to another. These planters are readily available in console (5 & 10, hardware stores) and many violet specialists have them on their lists (e.g. Tinari Greenhouses, Bethayres, Pa., and Neil C. Miller, Layton's Lake, Penns Grove, N. J., has

SPECIALIZING IN HYBRIDIZING

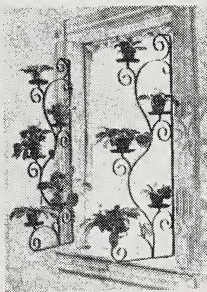
The largest blossoms and darkest foliage, ruffled and frilled. Violets that bloom all the time. Recessive yellows too. Four cent stamp for 1959 list.

LELA REICHERT

3114 Charles Street Omaha 31, Nebraska

it in his 1954 catalog—haven't received a later one from him, although I have requested it). From my experience, I find a plant has to be ready for a two and one-half or three inch pot in order to grow well in this wick-fed planter. Smaller plants cannot handle all the earth and water. I like to use a lighter soil in these planters than I would normally use. Usually, I add about one-third, by bulk, of vermiculite to my potting mixture, and imagine Perlite will be even better (I've just ordered my first batch). A teaspoon of bone meal or manure could be added to make up for the loss of food value but I have not done so. However, I do fertilize regularly with a liquid fertilizer about twice a month. I started using my old nylon stockings instead of commercial wicks, which I would have had to send for to the states, and was very pleased to notice that Mrs. Ffoulkes does the same. However, I don't bother braiding mine, just cut the stocking crosswise, usually about one-fourth inch thick, thread it through the hole and spread it out as you would a commercial wick. I rest mine on top of my drainage material, i.e. charcoal and coarse vermiculite, to make sure that capillary action can take place. My plants could go without watering for about ten days; however a lot depends on the temperature, humidity, amount of sunshine, type and size of plant and shape of growth. I tried these wick-fed planters when we lived in Brazil and soon discarded them as I discovered that with the tremendous changes in temperature during night and day and the high humidity, crown rot set in only too readily. In fact, wick-fed pots are routine with me now. All new plants (African violets and others) get my homemade wicks. For smaller pots with small plants I use a smaller

POULETTE'S "5-STAR" SWINGING GARDEN-GATE PLANT HOLDERS



New and handsome! Each rack holds 5 plants on removable, fluted 3" trays. Accommodates pots up to 4", squatty or regular. Utilizes natural light of unused window area. A touch swings plants into room or nearer light. 40" high; 13" across bottom. Rigid steel; black semi-gloss finish. Decorative hardware and screws included.

Will show off your large and small plants while enhancing windows from inside and out. Requires less than 1" width of window frame area for mounting.

Pair \$14.95 ppd., East of the Mississippi, West of the Mississippi add \$1.00 per pair; \$2.00 for Canada. Send check or money order. No C. O. D.'s Satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded.

POULETTE WELDING CO.

Dept. AVD

Kempton, Penna.

piece of nylon stocking. I also use a smaller piece in plastic pots compared to the same size clay pot as evaporation is slower. With some plants which I potted a while ago and are doing nicely, I have stuck the nylon stocking through the drainage hole with a skewer or knitting needle, being careful not to injure the roots, and thus the plants, without being disturbed, are still getting the wick-fed treatment. All my clay pots up to two and one-half inches, I submerge as far as possible in jardinières, saucers and what have you of vermiculite and water from the bottom. It takes a bit of practice not to have the plants sitting in water. If I find I have been too generous with my watering can, I just take the plant out and let it use up the water it has soaked up and drain the saucer. I have been able to raise the humidity by about 10% around my plants. The above method might be called "wick-fed double potting." I have some very precious plantlets coming along and am now experimenting by placing a plantlet in a thumb pot (clay) inside one of my "Chinese" planters filled with vermiculite. I am doing this because I'm a busy housewife with a very active crew of four and it has happened to me so often that this little plant that had shown so much promise, all of a sudden

is all wilted, sometimes beyond recovery and sometimes serious setbacks. This method does take a little extra room, but with certain special plants it is worth it to me. For the first little while, my experimental plant has had its own small "greenhouse," an inverted, clear plastic, refrigerator dish.

I think there are only two very important rules to observe when growing plants in the wick-fed manner.

1. The water level in the outside container must never touch the bottom of the flowerpot.

2. Plants should be given a chance to dry out between fillings of the container, but the plant should not be subjected to the shock of actually wilting, especially if kept in a hot and sunny location. This goes for all plants, not just African violets. A certain amount of close watching has to be done when plants are first put under this new regime, but in the long run a great deal of work and time is saved which greatly makes up for the time spent in the beginning, not to mention the reward of beautiful healthy plants and lots of bloom.

Mrs. G. M. Johnson, P. O. Box 45
Hudson, P. Q. Canada



INTRODUCING — FOUNTAIN FLOWER POTS to violet growers. Have you ever forgotten to water your violet plants? Have you ever given a prized violet to a friend and then have it neglected? Then you would appreciate our beautiful new FOUNTAIN FLOWER POTS. A perfect supply of water or nutrient solution for weeks at a time. GIFTS — Excellent book-ends for the desk. No drowning. Next to very regular watering by hand, this is the best. Fountains in green, chartreuse, brown, or ivory. Postpaid \$2.00 each. 2 for \$3.00; 4 for \$5.00. Glazed pots to match 2 for \$1.00.

FOUNTAIN FLOWER POTS

MORTON, ILLINOIS

MAKE YOURSELF A GROTTO AND PLANT SOME SAINTPAULIAS

Joy Hutson, Luton, Beds., England

A SUGGESTION FOR YOUR SPRING SHOW

Alice G. Watters, Lancaster, N. B., Canada

To whomever one speaks now-a-days, invariably the conversation starts off with the weather. "What a dreadful summer, worse than last year;" "Isn't it depressing!" I agree, it certainly is.

My Saintpaulias in the plant room are not blooming continuously as they hitherto have done in the past summers. When we do get the odd day of sunshine, the effect on the plants is very noticeable, which indicates that a sun-warmed room has a stimulating effect on the plant growth which no artificial heat can give.

Mildew has been a bit troublesome owing to the damp atmosphere and low temperature. This, however, has been checked by opening wide the door and window, for say about thirty minutes each day, and letting the air encircle the room. I am hoping to have a smaller window set in the top of the larger one, which will enable me to keep it open all day, if necessary.

June was a month of contrasts, with the weather compromising between sunshine and rain, warmth and cold.

On the first and second, the weather was showery. The next day came in with a gale, which resulted in much damage to the gardens.

It was chilly and dull on the fourth, with a little sun during the late afternoon.

The fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth brought showers, with sunny periods.

On the ninth, most of England experienced a cloudburst, which flooded homes and fields to a depth of four to five inches.

The following day was dull and humid, not to mention depressing.

More rain came on the twelfth, whilst a thick cloak of mist hung about most of the next day.

Sunshine and warmth gladdened us on the fourteenth, and continued over the following two days.

The seventeenth was dull and chilly, but on the eighteenth we awoke to another delightful day. From here to the twenty-eighth, the days and nights were cold and wet.

July has brought even more rain and sunless days, and, as I write this, we are well into August and the weather hasn't altered. Hailstones are falling, as large as small walnuts.

Not being able to get out to mow the lawns because they were too saturated with water, I decided to make myself a small grotto in one corner of the concrete patio, which is just outside the kitchen door, with the colourful stones and

When we had our spring show in May, we just couldn't get enough rooted leaves to sell. The visitors flocked around the sales table, and so many went away disappointed because we were completely sold out by afternoon.

It might be a good idea for a society or club that plans to sell rooted leaves at its flower show, to purchase some deep, foil piepans. About three months before show time, one could be given to each member and she could plant leaves from her good varieties in whatever rooting medium she prefers. Then, just before show time, these rooted leaves could be packaged individually, and there would be an adequate and varied supply for the sales table. end

rocks that my husband and I brought back with us from the beach during our holiday last July. It was an enjoyable afternoon's work and well worth doing, for it is much admired.

The largest rocks were used for the foundation and slowly built up to the desired height. From the top of the rocks, a continuous slow drip of water falls into a tiny pool. A disused, fourteen-inch square, enamel meat dish was used for the pool, the shape being camouflaged by rocks so placed to jut inwards. The drip is made by a strand of thick, dark grey wool being tethered by a small stone to the inside bottom of a water-filled coffee can or tin that is placed in a higher position than the highest part of the grotto.

Arrange your lengths of wool where you want the drips to fall. Both the can and wool should be concealed in the rocks or behind a piece of trellis work, as mine are. I simply nailed the tin can to the back of this trellis, two inches above the highest rock.

The whole structure is not more than one yard square and thirty-two inches at the highest point.

In the crevices I have planted a few small, blooming Saintpaulias, plus some tiny ferns and various little bits and pieces that like a somewhat shady and damp position. Under our hedges I found some moss-covered stones, and these were used to much advantage. It is amazing what one can find in one's garden or in the fields and woods.

If you are blessed with imagination and have a few rocks, do try your hand at making a little grotto, and don't forget to plant a few African violets, not your choicest ones of course, but those you can easily spare.

"There is joy only in creative activity which carries a sterling reward and satisfaction."

end

REGISTRATION REPORT . . .

Constance Hansen, Box 302, Lafayette, California

PART I

The following applications for registration have been received during the period from July 22, 1958, to September 8, 1958:

PLANT AND REGISTRANT

GREEN EYES (1059) WC28sfS, LILLIAN JARRETT (1060) P28dS, PINK SOMBRERO (1061) P2dS, ZORRO (1062) O2dS, 8/8/58, Tinari Greenhouses, Bethayres, Pa.
SWEET CLOVER (1063) P28dS, 8/12/58, Mrs. Duane L. Champion, Clay, N. Y.
MOUNTAIN ROSE (1064) RP29dS, 8/24/58, Mrs. R. D. Spitz, 2311 Laporte Ave., Fort Collins, Colo.
VANGUARD (1065) DB58dfS, 9/8/58, Beatrice H. Mills, 3532 Lake Ave., Rochester 12, N. Y.

PART II

The following name reservations have been received from July 22, 1958, to September 8, 1958: Pink Polka, Amazon Pink Geneva, Amazon Blue Tango, White Bouquet, Paisley Butterfly, Fairy Butterfly.

One of the main objectives of the early organizational meetings of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., was to bring order out of the chaos of existing violet varieties, some of which went by several different names. Toward this end a classification committee was appointed in 1947, and given the task of establishing an official description and one valid name for each variety then in existence.

The need for a method of registration in order to prevent duplication of names in the future became apparent at the time the classification committee started in its work, and in 1949 a registration service was instituted, with a code of rules for the proper procedure. The aim was to accurately record by name and authentic description all the different varieties of African violets originated in the past and those to be originated in the future.

This was a large order, and to accomplish it depends on the grower's realizing his responsibility to provide an official description, and taking advantage of the privilege of having it registered permanently by the Society for each of his introductions.

At first the registrar attempted a critical evaluation of each application for registration, turning down those he felt were too similar to varieties already in existence. As the number of varieties snowballed, and it became apparent that no one person could know them all, the applications were accepted subject to objections by the membership at large.

This rule was eventually discontinued, although there was still a need for the critical evaluation of new varieties as they appeared on the market. A number of Society members felt that a testing station was the answer to the problem, but since there was never any practical method formulated for setting up such a station, the Society has never been in the position to sponsor one. Furthermore, authorities on the subject have agreed that registration and testing are quite separate functions, and the registrar should not exercise the role of a judge.

In order to be sure that registered varieties would remain fairly true to their official description, the ruling was made in 1951 that before registering a variety, it must be grown through three generations, including the original plant from seed or a sport, and two succeeding propagations from leaves. Since this requires several months to accomplish, the practice of Name Reservation for varieties already in existence, but still on trial, was set up.

As one of the important functions of a registration committee is to maintain a master file as complete as possible on all varieties in circulation, registered or not, commercial lists are checked, and lists of individual collectors also, to try and keep the file up to date. It is also a function of this committee to publish a check list of known named varieties, and this we hope to be able to do in the not too far distant future.

The category of Name Protection was set up for those varieties known to be in existence and in some degree of circulation, although unregistered, for the purpose of avoiding name duplication where possible.

In 1954 the present form of registration was devised and put in use. The purpose was to make simpler the task of giving a complete official description of a variety, but the result has been to discourage many from registration, as they feel it takes too much time and energy to supply all the information called for. It may be that there is room for improvement in the form of the cards, but it is necessary to have a good and complete description for each registered variety, and without the cards it is easy to forget to include important identifying features. A variety worth registering should

merit the time needed to write up the description for the record. The registrar is willing to help in any way possible, as it is most important that varieties in general circulation be registered.

In former years it was the practice not to allow the registration of an existing name in a series simply by tacking a series name in front of it. However, according to the rules of nomenclature set up by the Society (Section 14), two or more varieties bearing an identical name (where established by long usage) should be distinguished from each other by adding the name of the introducer, or some suitable distinguishing term that will ensure identity in catalogues, shows, or discussion.

It is fervently hoped that now the complete list of currently registered varieties is brought up to date each year, and a reprint supplied to each commercial grower for his handy reference, that the need for invoking Section 14 will disappear, as it is really not good practice, and leads to difficulties. Confusion results from the fact that the "handles" thus tacked on to otherwise good names are too cumbersome to write and soon get left off the labels and out of written accounts. Also it makes printed lists difficult to check without a system of cross references.

The Nickerson Color Fan now distributed by the American Horticultural Council and obtainable from Donald Wyman, Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain 30, Mass., should prove to be a great help in providing uniform descriptive terms for flower color, and all growers who do any amount of hybridizing would do well to keep one of these fans handy when filling out their registration cards. Hybridizers on a small scale may be able to persuade their clubs to obtain the fan for the club library, as they are somewhat expensive to buy for limited use.

The Code of Rules for Nomenclature and Registration, and information and instructions concerning registration and name reservations of African violets may be obtained simply by dropping a card to the registrar. These should be read carefully by anyone planning to register. The registrar will be happy to answer any questions regarding registration or reservation of names for new varieties. Names are reserved only for plants which are already in existence.

Registration committee member, Mrs. Mary Shangle, is at present working on the project of keeping the file up to date as to commercially listed varieties, and would appreciate receiving any lists that she has missed sending for. Her address is: Rt. 1, Box 262, St. Helens, Oregon.

Applications for registration to be published in any one quarterly issue (March, June, September, December) should reach the registrar before the end of the preceding quarter, since her report to the editor is due three months ahead of the publication date. end

AFRICAN VIOLETS

We offer, at our home only, a small but choice selection of individually groomed, fluorescent grown plants at modest prices. Visitors are extended a most cordial welcome.

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AFRICAN VIOLETS

OLD and NEW

Send Stamp for List

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404 Montlieu Ave.

Highpoint, N. C.

ENHANCE THE BEAUTY OF YOUR AFRICAN VIOLETS WITH THE KELVIE TABLE-TOP STAND



Space Saving — Decorative — Adjustable

Unique table top stand shows seven plants to their best advantage. Many arrangements are possible because each arm is adjustable both vertically and horizontally. Quickly assembled with seven (4") plastic pots; seven arms; 18" center post; and 12" diameter base. Pots, arms, and center post are copper tone, base is satin black.

Postpaid price — \$6.95 each (no plants)

KELVIE PRODUCTS

P. O. BOX 733

WAYNE, N. J.

GOOD PRECAUTIONS

Liza T. Damron, St. Petersburg, Florida

Some folks have ample room to segregate new violets for months, to determine whether or not they harbor mites; but many others, like myself, have little space for that.

My method has worked satisfactorily for me, so I'll pass it on to you. I keep a jug of sodium selenate on hand. Every newcomer is given a dose each week for four weeks, and by then new plants are safe company for my collection. This treatment is given to ALL newcomers, whether from a nursery or friends. I am sure no one would give or sell a mite infested plant knowingly, but these mighty mites do sneak in uninvited. It is so easy to handle them before they get a head start.

I also drench the soil with V-C 13, as I do not like nematodes either.

If anyone writes for further information, please do not forget the stamp with our flag on it! end

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Leaves Rooted Cuttings Small Plants
Newest and Best from East and West.
Special on early leaf orders.
Stamp for new list.

MRS. JAMES D. FOWLER
651 Greystone Sheridan, Wyoming

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

To our violet friends and customers, a big
THANK YOU for a successful year.

We are growing stock now for spring introductions, also thousands of plants of old and new varieties for spring shipping. Watch for these new ones:

CRINOLINE
ALABASTER
WEDGEWOOD
BLAZE

Complete spring 1959 price lists of rooted cuttings and plants will be ready in January, and will be sent on request. (Please enclose stamp, and specify wholesale or retail list.)

RICHTER'S GREENHOUSE

607 Hoffman Street

Hammond, Ind.

MY EXPERIENCE WITH FLUORESCENT LIGHTS

Adeline Barta, San Bruno, California

I have had and enjoyed a Flora Cart for several years, using the daylight fluorescent tubes.

Small plants taken from the mother leaf grow and develop more quickly and seem stronger than those not put under the lights.

Large plants, reluctant to bloom, which are put under the lights soon develop buds. Constant light for a given number of hours produces these results.

Since my collection has grown by leaps and bounds, I recently purchased another Flora Cart. My husband installed warm white and cool white tubes in each fixture as an experiment. This cart is reserved mainly for my large plants.

The Flora Cart has been in operation about six weeks and we are so pleased with the results. Buds form quickly, blooms are more intense in color, and the foliage is beautifully green.

The girl type foliage does not seem to bunch so much in the center of the plant. I keep them to the outside edge of the tray and turn them once a week.

All in all, I am very pleased with the experiment, and as time goes on I will see more improvement in my plants.

The older Flora Cart has been equipped with the warm white and cool white fluorescent lights. The tiny plants have responded well. The lights are kept on for sixteen hours a day.

Sometimes a little experiment brings results we have been striving for and is worth the effort and expense.

I hope others may have the excellent results I have experienced in the use of warm white and cool white fluorescent lights. end

TWO METHODS OF ROOTING LEAVES

Esther E. Schadewald, Havertown, Pennsylvania

Leaves were rooted in water then placed in clay pots filled with one-half woods soil and one-half sand. They were placed twelve inches under an incandescent 100-watt bulb. Plantlets appeared in twelve days.

Plastic pots (2") were filled with one inch woods soil and sand then filled with Terra-Lite. Fresh cut leaves were placed in filled pots then placed in large aquarium. Plantlets appeared in six weeks. end

A SARAN GREENHOUSE

Alma H. Rolfe, Detroit, Michigan

Before I discovered how helpful Saran Wrap can be in growing African violets, I think I perhaps lost the most in the "off the leaf" stage, after the group of plantlets had been separated from the mother leaf and left to grow a little before they were separated and placed in individual pots.

Now, after I have separated them and placed them individually in thimble pots, I set about twenty-five or thirty in a tray of wet sand and cover the entire tray with a piece of Saran Wrap (the queen size). I lay it loosely over the plants, the labels acting as a protection to the plants themselves. The Saran Wrap rests upon the labels (I use the Neil C. Miller labels) and I do not attempt to tuck it in on the sides.

The plantlets receive ample air, and I find that this slight protection carries them through this delicate stage of their growth. Two weeks is sufficient time to give them the start they need.

I have had almost one hundred percent success since I have used this method. In a pan of twenty-eight plantlets, in the past I may have lost several, but now my loss is only one or two. end

ANSWERS: A WINTER FANTASY

All Aglow	Moon Ripples
Angel Dancer	Northern Skies
Aurora	Polar Ice
Blue Ice	Sleigh Bells
Blue Peaks	Snow Ball
Christmas Star	Snow Prince
Crystal Queen	Snowscape
Delightful	Snow Fairy
Fairy Dell	Uncle Bob
Frosty	Wine Velvet
Holly	White Madonna
Loving Cups	Wintergreen
Miss Cathy	Wintry Nite

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Choice Varieties Old and New
Visitors Always Welcome

No Shipping No Price List

MRS. R. K. PAYNE

510 S. 27th St. Omaha 5, Nebraska

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Good Growing with "My Compost"

Mother Nature's Way

Leaf Mold and Minerals that are mellow with age.

BESS GREELEY

Chicago, Illinois

Mercer, Wisconsin

IN MEMORIAM TO MARY MILLER

And when God calls the dearest ones we love
To dwell with Him in perfect bliss above,
We cannot feel that He has loosed the tie
That bound their human hearts to earth. So we
Find comfort in the thought that they may be
Our guardian angels keeping watch o'er us.

At times our hearts are sad—

we feel the need of cheer,

'Tis then our loved ones seem to hover very near.

We almost feel the touch of a dear hand

Upon our own, to help us understand

We still are theirs and they are ours, e'en though

They dwell in Heaven above

and we on earth below.

Not broken ties, but just a veil between

Our earthly vision and that world unseen,

A little time to wait, while loved ones there

Keep tender watch till we may share

Their perfect peace and God's perfect love.

That's known to those who dwell with Him above.

The life Mary lived was true and honest,

Always glad to meet a friend.

Happyhearted and contented,

Faithful to the very end.

Now her earthly strife is over,

No more sorrow, no more care,

Yet our hearts are sad and lonely,

For we miss you, Mary—everywhere.

Sleep on, Beloved Friend, sleep and take thy rest.

Lay down your weary head

upon the Saviour's breast.

We love thee well, but Jesus loves thee best,

Good night, Beloved Mary, good night.

Phoebe F. Rode

M. Anna Layton

Frances Dages

"MERRY CHRISTMAS" as words, can be repeated so often and said so glibly that they fail to carry meaning. Let me wish Merry Christmas to you in a way that I doubt anyone has ever wished it to you before but in a way that has real meaning to me.

I hope that you, at Christmas 1958 or at any succeeding Christmas, will never have to repeat my experience of Christmas 1957: Just as the hospital loudspeaker system is giving forth its first glad carol ushering in a gay new Christmas season, to have a surgeon emerge from an operating room with the information that your loved one on whom he has just operated may not live to this Christmas and certainly will not live to another.

I couldn't wish you more than this.

NEIL C. MILLER

Layton's Lake

Penns Grove 6, N. J.

Supplies for African Violet Growing.

Send for 1959 Catalogue.

FERMATE INFORMATION ROUNDUP

From Vol. 2, No. 1, p. 24 A group of seedlings had been individually potted. In about a dozen cases, moss, or mold, appeared upon the top of the soil and a pencil point dipped into FERMATE was used to "rework" or loosen the soil on the top. Again within a very short time the mold and moss had disappeared and after five or six weeks has not made its reappearance.

From Vol. 4, No. 3, p. 19 Seedlings are often attacked by mold organisms at the surface of the soil, resulting in damping off — the rotting and decay of the stems at the ground lines. Spraying or dusting the surface of the soil with FERMATE aids in preventing damping off. Apply FERMATE evenly and lightly before or as seedlings emerge, using spray or dust concentration given.

To prepare spray: Use two level tablespoons per gallon of water. Do not attempt to mix dry FERMATE powder with the full amount of water. First make a thin, smooth paste by adding water to FERMATE and stirring; then add paste to water in sprayer and agitate.

To prepare dust: Mix one part, by weight, of FERMATE with 9 parts, by weight, of any commonly used diluent, preferably talc or pyrophyllite.

Application: Begin application of FERMATE before diseases are apparent or at first sign of

infection — preferably before infection occurs. Applications should be made often enough to keep new growth covered; once every 7 to 14 days is a good schedule to follow. However, timing of application is best gauged by the growth of the plants and the weather. Wet weather favors the development of fungous diseases and more frequent applications are required. In prolonged dry spells, applications are needed less frequently. Cover all plant surfaces of leaves. Many fungi infect primarily through the lower leaf surface.

From Vol. 11, No. 1, p. 8 We formerly mixed our own soil but for a number of reasons have switched to commercially available prepared African violet soil. We have had quite good luck with one called Mellow-Mix. It comes in three pound plastic bags and contains the soil conditioner Krilium. To each three pound bag we add about a cup of fine chip charcoal, a tablespoon of tobacco dust and a teaspoon of FERMATE. In spite of the experts saying no, we believe we have had less trouble with crown rot since we added FERMATE to our potting soil.

From Vol. 6, No. 1, p. 17 Root or stem rot, evidenced by a wobbly plant with rotted, discolored areas at the base, may be checked, if it has not gone too far, by dipping the plant in a fungicide made by mixing 2 tablespoons of FERMATE in a gallon of water, plus one-third teaspoon of DREFT, or by watering it with this fungicide, taking care to wet stem and leaf bases as well as drenching the soil. Better still, cut the plant off at the ground line, then cut off stem until you come to an area which is free of disease. Dust wound and nearby stem with a mixture of dusting sulphur 90% and FERMATE 10%, then put in cheese glass of water to root. end

HAVE A HAPPY — EASY CHRISTMAS
Send Names and Addresses of Those "Hard To Buy For" Friends.

Specify from list below — We Do The Rest

RAINBOW MINERAL "Trace Elements"	1 pd. 5 pd.	\$1.00 2.00
GOLDEN EARTH "Potting Mix"	1 pd. 3 pd.	1.00 2.00
HOLY COW "Dehydrated Manure"	5 pd.	1.50
DANDEE PEAT "Ground & Screened"	4 qt.	1.50
MAGNITE "Fertilizer & Soil Conditioner"	1 pd. 5 pd.	1.00 2.00
PEELEE'S — Earth Worm Humus	3 pd. 5 pd.	1.00 2.00

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"prepaid"

MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR

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Most Ruffled — Blackest Foliage

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Fresh & Rooted Leaves — Plants

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Write for free list

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GREETINGS

FROM OUR OWN CAROLINAS

Carolina Miss — Lt. blue double, girl foliage.

Carolina-in-the-Morning — Dbl. ruffled pink, wavy foliage.

Carolina Moon — Dbl. med. blue, plain foliage.

Carolina Dew Drops — Single frilly pink, wavy foliage.

Carolina Dixie Deb — Dark pink eye fusing to

chartreuse edges, double, wavy foliage.

Carolina Autumn Skies — Sky blue with white spots,

semidouble.

Carolina Little Rose — Double pink.

Carolina Double Pink —

Eldus — Lt. blue single, large leaf, semi-trailer.

Fresh cut leaves only. New and Old Varieties. Send stamp for list. Plants sold at home by appointment.

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Club

NEWS

MAXINE WANGBERG

1400 N. 118th Street, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin

Deadline dates for Club News contributions: For September issue, June 1st; for December, September 1st; for March, December 1st; for June, March 1st.

The **AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB OF GREATER KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI**, elected the following officers for the coming year at their June meeting: president, Bill Smithson; vice-president, Mrs. Forrest Hopper; recording secretary, Mrs. Gladys Guilliams; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Leo Mick; treasurer, John T. Buckner.

The club enjoyed a talk by Dr. John Baumgardt entitled "African Violets and Their Family Relatives."

The **HARMONY AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF BOISE, IDAHO**, started its fall session with a meeting in the home of Mrs. Harold McWhirter. Cohostesses were Mrs. B. F. Lindley and Mrs. Victor Hansen.

The programs for the following months will be colored slides from the National Society's Library, artistic arrangements by club members, and a plant exchange in December.

The **SAN GABRIEL VALLEY AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, SAN GABRIEL, CALIFORNIA**, held its installation of officers at the June, 1958 meeting. Mrs. Clarissa Harris conducted the installation, using as her theme, The Flower Garden. She used many of her lovely violet plants to demonstrate her story.

A salad bar preceded the meeting, which everyone enjoyed.

The following officers were installed: president, Mrs. Stanley Doran; first vice-president, Mrs. John Mathews; second vice-president, Mrs. Sid Carson; recording secretary, Mrs. G. W. Nelson; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Reba Trombatore; treasurer, Mrs. F. M. Bonneville.

The **CHICO AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, CHICO, CALIFORNIA**, held a successful flower show and plant sale in April. In May the club won second prize for its garden at the Silver Dollar Fair. Mrs. W. L. Whitney was garden chairman. Several members entered plants at the fair and won prizes.

The Chico club was represented by six members at the Northern California Council of African Violet Societies in Sacramento on May 10th and 11th.

The program for the May meeting was a film with narrations "Wild Flowers of the West." It was decided to hold pot-luck supper meetings during the summer months.

Mrs. D. W. Seay is club president.

The **SUBURBAN SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY OF ILLINOIS** held its first guest day tea on April 16, 1958, at the home of Mrs. Hugo Thal of Arlington Heights, Illinois. Guests were members of the Rose 'Onna African Violet Club of Chicago, the African Violet Club of Downers Grove, and Miss Alice Johnson, president of the African Violet District Council. The program presented was a short play entitled Violets Are Magic, written by the club president, Mrs. Laddie Poduska. Cohostesses at the attractive tea table, following the performance of the play, were Mrs. Clarence Paeglow and Mrs. William Weber.

At the installation luncheon May 14th, at the home of Mrs. A. J. McIlwraith, it was announced that the club's year book had been awarded third prize at the National Convention in April at Rochester, New York. Mrs. Edward Moss, past president, installed the following officers who had been re-elected to serve a second term: president, Mrs. Laddie Poduska; vice-president, Mrs. Irwin Linehan; secretary, Mrs. Clarence Paeglow; treasurer, Mrs. Walter Damm, Jr. In the forenoon Mrs. Clarence Wechselberger of the Rose 'Onna African Violet Club gave an informative and inspirational program on "How to Use African Violets in Decorative Arrangements."

The June meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Poduska, who gave a report on the Rochester Convention and showed an interesting series of colored slides entitled "Let's Visit Alma Wright," which introduced the club members in a friendly way to our National magazine editor, Mrs. Robert Wright of Knoxville, Tennessee.

In July, Mr. and Mrs. McIlwraith were host and hostess at their home for a couples' barbecue.

On September 3, the new season was opened with a luncheon at the Milk Pail Restaurant at Fin 'n Feather Farm in Dundee, Illinois, in celebration of the club's fourth anniversary. After the luncheon, the members enjoyed a violet tour at the home of Mrs. James Burnidge of Elgin, Illinois.

At their June meeting, the **AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF SEATTLE, WASHINGTON**, elected the following officers for the coming year: president, Mrs. Fred Hager; first vice-president, Mrs. A. C. Anderson; second vice-president, Mrs. Mary Murray; secretary, Miss Helen Blackman; treasurer, Bernard Carter.

Mrs. J. K. Johnson's lovely home on Wheeler Highway, Tuscumbia, Alabama, was the setting for the installation tea of the **MUSCLE SHOALS AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY**.

Mrs. J. Roy Taylor installed the following officers: president, Mrs. Almon Kennedy; first vice-president, Mrs. V. E. Lund; second vice-president, Mrs. D. T. Wilcoxson; corresponding secretary, Mrs. W. F. Parks; recording secretary, Mrs. L. H. Almond; treasurer, Mrs. J. T. Darby.

Mrs. Taylor presented each officer with a list of her duties fastened to a corsage.

The **JAMESTOWN AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, JAMESTOWN, NEW YORK**, held its regular June meeting at the Y.W.C.A. Dessert and coffee were served before the meeting, at a table decorated with an arrangement of African violets. A leaf and plant sale was held and Mrs. Vernon Burmeister reported on the Oriskany violet show.

In July the club enjoyed a picnic and tureen luncheon at a local park. Three new members were received into the club. Members gave a demonstration on the proper method of potting African violet plants.

The club sponsored a booth at the annual Jamestown General Hospital Fair here in the city during the month of July. They cleared the sum of \$102.64, which was turned over to the hospital. Mrs. Ethel Pratt, ways and means chairman, was in charge of the booth, assisted by an able committee.

In August the club held a picnic supper honoring the husbands, at the home of Mrs. George Dean.

Mrs. J. J. Malloy, Jr. president of the **SOUTH BEND AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, SOUTH BEND, INDIANA**, gave a president's tea on Thursday July 7, 1958, at her home.

Among those attending were Mrs. Elmer Sholly, president of the Twin City African Violet Society; Mrs. Maxie Boggs, president of the Friendly African Violet Society; and Mrs. F. D. Schilling president of the South East Violettes.

Mrs. Eugene Hamilton, whose husband is president of the Mr. and Mrs. African Violet Society of South Bend, was invited to pour. The table was decorated with a ruffled pink violet flanked by turquoise tapers.

The **AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA**, elected the following officers for the coming year: president, Mrs. Norman Bullock; vice-president, Mrs. T. E. Leipold; recording secretary, Mrs. Susette McCouch; treasurer, Mrs. G. W. Nothhardt.

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The **AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF GREATER NEW YORK** held its annual meeting and election of officers on June 23, 1958. The new officers are: president, Mrs. Edith Coleman; vice-president, Paul Younger; secretary, Mrs. Gertrude Ferris; treasurer, Michael Kartuz.

The **AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, NEW YORK**, elected the following officers for the ensuing year: president, Mrs. Ruth Allen; first vice-president, James E. Ford; second vice-president, Mrs. Margaret Gillogley; secretary, Mrs. Frank Clinch; treasurer, Miss Carolyn Whitney.

The **AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB OF TRENTON, NEW JERSEY**, elected the following officers for the coming year: president, Mrs. Leonard Ferry; vice-president, Mrs. Thomas Everist; secretary, Mrs. Benjamin Lear; treasurer, Nicholas Nanni.

The '55 **AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**, held a Reciprocity Day on Wednesday, October 15, 1958, at the Edison Park Methodist Church hall, 6740 N. Oliphant Ave. The full membership of the six local violet clubs were invited. Refreshments were served at one o'clock.

The guest speaker was F. D. Richter from the Richter's Greenhouses in Hammond, Indiana. Award winning slides taken by Mr. Richter were shown, also his newest introductions of African violets.

Newly elected officers of the club are: president, Mrs. Ellwood Lloyd; vice-president, Mrs. John C. Wittner; recording secretary, Mrs. Vernon Halverson; treasurer, Mrs. Herbert Isberg.

On May 27, 1958, the **PHOENIX AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, PHOENIX, ARIZONA**, ended its third year with a luncheon and installation of officers. Officers for the coming year are: president, Mrs. S. R. Stevens; vice-president, Mrs. Rudolph Schaffer; secretary, Mrs. Date Huffman; treasurer, Mrs. M. J. Silverman.

During the year, considered to be a most successful one by the members, the club not only staged its second show, but furnished the educational exhibit for the Tucson show, took part in several shows staged at the Phoenix Valley Garden Center by other garden clubs, entered a flower show held by a local furniture company, and won \$65.00 in prize money for their violet decorations. They also held a judging school with Mrs. James Carey as instructor. Thirteen students took the course and thirty others audited the course.

Big things are being planned for the coming year: the third violet show, a visit to Mrs. Harriet Sands' Greenhouse in Prescott, Arizona, for a demonstration in pollination and seed planting, for entering a House and Garden Tour, and decorating a large local home, using violets as the most important feature.

The **LORAIN COUNTY AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, LORAIN, OHIO**, entertained the Glass City African Violet Club of Toledo, Ohio, at an afternoon picnic on August 28, 1958. The event took place on the pleasant lawn overlooking Lake Erie at the home of Mrs. David Thomas, Lorain, Ohio.

A delicious picnic lunch was served, after which games were played and an African violet leaf auction was held. Auctioneers were Mrs. Leonard Grahm and Mrs. Richard Valentine.

Mrs. John Reinhardt served as luncheon chairman, and Mrs. Leonard Grahm was entertainment chairman.

Toledo guests were Mrs. Jean Baker, Mrs. Winifred Crawford, Mrs. Irene Fleming, Mrs. Grace Huff, Mrs. Beatrice Kuder, Mrs. Leone O'Neil, Mrs. Mary Suhr, and Mrs. Elizabeth Suhr.

The **AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF PIONEER VALLEY IN SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS**, held its annual meeting and banquet, celebrating its sixth anniversary, on May 5, 1958. Mrs. Harold Ricker and Mrs. George Bailey were in charge of the arrangements for the affair. After the banquet new officers were elected as follows: president, Mrs. Irwin Franklin; vice-president, Mrs. E. P. Dingman; secretary, Miss Edith Perry; treasurer, Mrs. Harold Ricker.

On June 2, 1958, the members held a picnic in the yard of Miss Edith Perry. Mrs. Raymond Jacobs was chairman.

The **WISCONSIN COUNCIL OF AFRICAN VIOLET CLUBS** held a meeting at the Ambassador Hotel on September 22, 1958. The following new officers were installed: president, Mrs. W. J. Hadley, De Pere, Wisconsin; vice-president, Mrs. D. E. Buchta, Racine, Wisconsin; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. G. Truran, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Club presidents gave a brief report on club activities. After the luncheon Mr. Richter, the guest speaker, presented a program on "Hybridizing." He introduced some of his 1958 Convention winners.

Mrs. M. Diderich of Beloit, Wisconsin, was in charge of a violet sale which was held after the program. Proceeds of the sale will be used for the council's activities.

On September 19 and 20 the **BALTIMORE AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, MARYLAND**, was again invited to participate in the annual fair of the Franklin High School. The proceeds of the affair will be used to buy athletic equipment for the school.

Mrs. Myrtle Kimrey will be in charge of our part of the fair and the members are planning to exhibit their carefully tended plants, and will offer some for sale for the benefit of the school.

The **AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF SPRINGFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA**, recently began its eleventh year with a box lunch to introduce new members and to discuss plans for the coming year. The meeting was held at the country home of Mrs. John L. Paxton near Media, Pennsylvania.

Programs for the season will include panel discussions on "Seasonal Care of African Violets," "What's New," and "Making Arrangements." Guest speakers will be Mrs. Arthur Ervin of Windsor, New Jersey, and Mrs. Norman Bullock of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Officers for 1958-59 are: president, Mrs. W. C. Zachow; vice-president, Mrs. W. B. Fenwick; recording secretary, Mrs. R. D. MacIver; corresponding secretary, Mrs. J. D. Woodward; treasurer, Mrs. W. L. Becker.

The Society has had a 100% National membership since it was organized on April 22, 1948.

The **JAMESTOWN AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, JAMESTOWN, NEW YORK**, held its annual family picnic on August 20th at the home of Mrs. George Dean. At that time it was host to three other violet clubs from this vicinity: the Country Violet Growers of Frewsburg, Lakeside African Violet Club of Bemus Point, and Violet Wheel Club of Gowanda, New York.

The **AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB OF CANTON, OHIO**, has been active throughout the summer.

The June meeting was an eleven o'clock luncheon at the home of Mrs. H. C. Edwards, with Mrs. W. E. Dorn assisting the hostess. The program was an illustrated talk by Mrs. Carlos Parks. Her topic was "New and Unusual Varieties."

The July meeting was a one o'clock dessert and coffee at the home of Mrs. Vincent J. Frank, with Mrs. W. H. Lambright assisting. Mrs. H. J. Ehret talked on the subject of "Cousins of the African Violet."

The August meeting was an eleven o'clock luncheon at the home of Mrs. Marvin Garner, who was assisted by Mrs. Henry Gossman. Mrs. V. J. Frank gave suggestions on "Unusual Ways of Exhibiting Violets."



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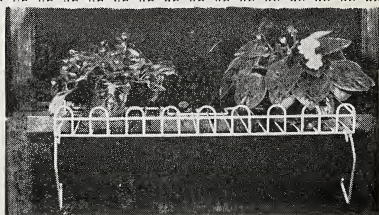
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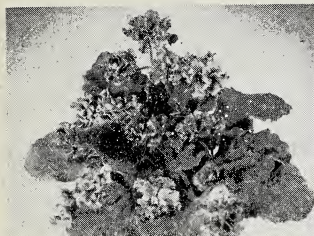
8 tablets Gibberellin plus plastic spray bottle \$1.40. Extra packet of 8 tablets, \$1.00.

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OUTLOOK FOR '59



Introducing two new varieties that have won wide acclaim in competitive showing.

- • • COQUETTE was Blue Ribbon winner at Minneapolis, 1957 National African Violet Society . . . beautifully ruffled deep lavender double with prominent yellow pollen center and fancy waved foliage with slightly serrated edge. \$2.00

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Introducing other outstanding new varieties.

JERSEY MIST.....	Tall flower stems, brilliant light blue ruffled blossoms, dark glossy girl foliage.	\$1.50
CARIBBEAN.....	Giant bright blue blossoms, attractive wavy, foliage, medium type grower.	\$2.00
MAY DANCE.....	Beautiful frilled double pink, wavy medium green foliage.	\$1.50
CANDY COTTON.....	Large flowering, strong growing double pink, deep pink in color, slightly waved foliage.	\$1.50
RINGMASTER.....	Deep lavender, slight white edging, large flower, dark green wavy foliage.	\$1.50
LAVENDER SPICE.....	Full double with dark lavender center shading to light lavender with attractive wavy foliage.	\$1.50
FRIVOLOUS LADY.....	An unusual two tone lavender double, very fringed, slightly waved foliage.	\$1.50
DESIREE.....	Unusually large fringed single white blossom, excellent bloomer, waved foliage with slightly serrated edge.	\$2.00

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VIOLETREE—DELIGHTFUL CHRISTMAS OR HOLIDAY GIFT FOR VIOLET AND PLANT HOBBYISTS! Artistically designed "Violetree" to hold plants in neat, space-saving order. Sturdy steel construction 54½" tall—25" in circumference. Well balanced neatly finished legs with rubber tips. Arms revolve and can be placed at any angle. The holders are cups 3½" wide x 1½" deep of heavy durable black plastic, which will not leak. Suitable to hold 2" or 3" pots and 4" standard size. Plastic cups can be removed for easy cleaning.

Violetree stand in antique black or silver color finish 21 cups **\$22.95 P. Pd.**

Violetree stand in antique black or silver color finish 25 cups **\$24.95 P. Pd.**

MIDGET VIOLETREE. Holds nine plants, measures 17" tall 14" in circumference. Cups neatly in proportion to stand 2¾" by 1¼" deep to hold 2" or 3" pots. Rubber tipped balanced legs, antique black or silver color finish \$9.95 each P. Pd.

"THE NEW FLORALITER" Constructed of heavy-gauge steel. Bonderized and given a white baked enamel finish to last a lifetime without rusting. To fit a window seat, radiator or small table, holds a dozen plants or more. The Floraliter measures 9" x 24" x 12". Complete with T-8, 15 watt, GE fluorescent daylight tube. Bottom tray is 1½" deep — enough room for vermiculite. Will not leak or corrode. Wiring and electrical fixtures are of approved heavy-duty type, concealed in a housing under the top. Neat white standard 6-ft. cord and plug. \$14.95, postpaid.

CERAMIC STRAWBERRY JAR — Handmade ceramic in six sparkling colors. Mottled colors blended in shades of tan, blue, green, gray, solid black or sparkling white. Suitable space for four violets. Proper drainage hole in bottom. 5¼" high and approximately 5¼" in circumference. \$2.25 ea. P. Pd. 2 for \$4.15 P. Pd.

New Hanging type strawberry jar of same size and colors with four openings, especially designed for your Gesneriads and episcias. \$2.25 each or 2 for \$4.15 P. Pd.



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"THE NEW FLORALITER"

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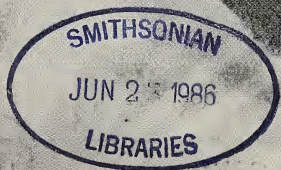
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African Violet

M A G A Z I N E

MARCH 1959

VOLUME 12 NUMBER 3



NEW VARIETIES AND AWARD WINNERS AT \$1.25 EACH

MATCHMATE: Light blue Geneva double, dark foliage.
PINK AMOUR: Deep cerise pink frilled bloom, bronze wavy foliage.
GIBSON GIRL: Deep purple bicolored, white edge, girl foliage.
ANN HOFFMAN: Large camellia pink double, girl foliage.
DOUBLE ROSEWING: Large dbl. version of old favorite, dark green foliage.
PINK CARESS: Deep pink heavily fringed, dark bronzy wavy leaves.
MASQUEADE: Upper two petal groups have black edge, deep purple eye.
EMBER DREAM: Raspberry red, semidouble, dark green quilted foliage.
GOLDEN HARVEST: Lilac Geneva, double bronze foliage.
GOOD NEWS: Large deep pink double with dark eye, dark green foliage.
MAY MELODY: Fringed medium blue double, dark green foliage.
MELO: Large deep pink double, beautiful quilted foliage.
PRIDE OF ROCHESTER: Large pink double, dark green foliage.
GREAT DAY: Vivid rose-pink double, plain foliage.
APRIL LOVE: Blue and white frilly double, dark bronzy girl foliage.
FUCHSIA BRIDE: Lilac double flowers, wavy dark foliage.
CHAPEL SUNSET: Dark red Geneva double, dark wavy foliage.
RIPPLING REDWING: Dark red single Geneva on bronze wavy foliage.
BEAU BRUMMEL: Double medium blue Geneva, fringy dark green leaves.
DOROTHY GRAY: Creamy pink double with chartreuse edge, dark green foliage.

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AMIZA: White, blue markings	.75	PINK CORAL QUEEN: Lt. pink, girl fol.	.75
AUTUMN: Dark blue double	.75	PINK DREAM: Large double pink	1.00
AZURE BLUE: Large dbl. blue	.75	PINK WALTZ: Dbl. pink, dark green fol.	1.00
BLUE DuPONT NO. 4: Single light blue	.75	PINK WAVERLY: Medium pink fringed	.75
BLUE FANTASY: Single light blue	1.00	PURPLE KNIGHT: Large dark blue	.75
BLUE MOON: Medium blue, single	.75	QUEEN NEPTUNE: Large double blue	.75
BLUSHING: Double creamy blush color	.75	RED KING: Single red	.75
BRIDESMAID: Double blue and white	.75	RUFFLED QUEEN: Fringed burgundy	.75
CALIF. DARK PLUM: Single red	.75	ROYAL BOUQUET: Double blue	1.00
CRUSADER: Dbl. burgundy	.75	SAILOR'S DELIGHT: Lt. blue, double	.75
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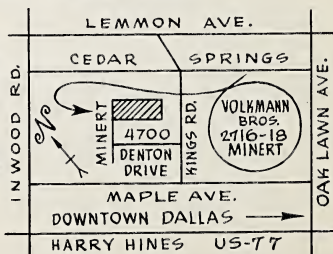
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FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Friends:

At the bottom of page one, of the pink sheets, is a list of members' names whose correct addresses are not now in the Magazine files. Won't you let us hear from you if you know where we may locate these "lost members."

A goodly number of informative and interesting stories will be featured in the June Magazine, and as many of the Detroit Convention reports as possible. We hope that you will enjoy them.

Do you have a story to tell of some African violet experience which would be helpful to other members? Why not write us about it, we would be pleased to hear from you.

To Anne Tinari and Catherine Shepherd — a most cordial welcome as members of the Magazine Staff.

Most sincerely,

Anna Wright

Just naturally grow together



It's a fact — African violets grow bigger and healthier, have more blooms when fed the Stim-U-Plant way. For prize winners, start with our high-organic soil mixes, feed with the rich, balanced Stim-U-Plant solution and keep pests away with Sel-Kaps or African Violet Spray. New Growers' Sizes available postpaid: 1 lb. can, \$1.30; 5 lb. can, \$4.95. Enclose check or money order, please.

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African Violet Magazine

A Quarterly Publication

C O N T E N T S

Vol. 12 March 1959 No. 3

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ANOTHER USE FOR PLASTIC SHEETING

RAID

Dorothy Felgar, Schenectady, New York

It is necessary to have my African violet stand quite near the furnace, in order to leave room for the boys' ping pong table. After the furnace was started this fall, I found that my violets were always too dry.

Recently I hung a section of the large plastic sheeting, that I used for my basement greenhouse last summer, on the side of the violet table next to the furnace. This has held the heat away from the plants. Now they do not dry out so rapidly, and they are blooming much better. end

Miss Lola Murray of Vidalia, Louisiana, writes that she has found RAID to be perfect for the control of aphids and red spider; also that Mrs. H. B. Bontwell of Natchez recommends it highly for the complete elimination of mealy bugs on African violets.

In addition, the manufacturer lists thrips and mites as other pests that can be controlled with RAID.

RAID contains the safest, effective, and least toxic, combination of insecticides, and does not harm humans or plants. RAID is manufactured by S. C. Johnson & Son, Inc., Racine, Wisconsin. end

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SAINTPAULIA SHUMENSIS A NEW SPECIES FROM AFRICA

B. L. Burt, Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, Scotland

Reprinted with permission, from "Notes from the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, Volume 21, Number 5, page 238."

In recent years the number of new species of *Saintpaulia* has increased rather alarmingly, yet there are still forms in cultivation which it is not possible to name satisfactorily. Some of these must await further study, but one of them is very easily distinguished from any species hitherto described and this is now published as *Saintpaulia shumensis*. It is a more delicate looking plant than its congeners and has somewhat smaller and paler flowers than any other of the known species. Its most distinctive feature however is the slender hairs which stand erect from the surface of the dark green leaves. *S. shumensis* is also noteworthy in being the only species to fruit freely in cultivation at Kew; this is probably because its habitat in the wild is cooler than is that of most of the other species.

Saintpaulia shumensis B. L. Burt, sp. nov. ab omnibus congeneris habitu compacto, foliis parvis supra pilis longis erectis praeditis, floribus pallidis, antheris saepissime haud cohaerentibus facile distinguitur.

Herba rosulata. Folia numerosa, petiolata; lamina crassiuscula ovata vel ovato-orbicularis, 2.5-3.5 cm. longa et 2.5-3 cm. lata, basi subauriculato-cordata, marginibus serrato-dentata dente terminali recurvo, supra luteo-veridis pilis multicellularibus 2.5 mm. longis erectis conspicue praedita, subtus pallidiora costa et venis prominentibus rubescentibus inconspicue subappresse pilosa pilis inter venis brevioribus; petiolus cylindraceus 2.4 cm. longus rubescens conspicue patente pilosus. Inflorescentiae axillares, pedunculo circiter 5-6 cm. longo uti petiolo rubescenti et patente piloso, plerumque 5-florae. Bractee lineares, virides, usque 5 mm. longae, vix 0.5 mm. latae, obtusae, pilosae. Pedicelli 1.5-2 cm. longi, pilosi, sub fructu contorto-recurvi.

Calyx profunde 5-partitus; segments 5 mm. longa, basi 1 mm. lata, apice obtuso 0.5 mm. late, pilosopubescentia. Corolla tubo 3 mm. longo; limbus bilabiatus, 5-lobatus, pallidissime lilacinus, labio superiore medio ad basin violaceus; labium inferius ambitu fere semi-circulare 15 mm. longum et 27 mm. latum ultra medium trilobatum (lobo medio 9 mm. longo et 7 mm. lato, lateralibus 8 mm. latis omnibus rotundatis); labium superius 1 cm. longum et 1.5 cm. latum paullo ultra medium bilobatum. Stamina 2, in ore corollae tubi inserta; filamenta 3 mm. longa, sub lente levissime muricata; antherae flavae suborbiculares, 1 mm. longae, dorsifixae, interse haud vel vix cohaerentes. Ovarium basi disco annulari undulato aurantiaco vix 0.5 mm. alto circumcinctum, conicum, 3 mm. longum, appresse pilosum (pilis ad apicem versus brevioribus) viride, apice in stylum glabrum aequilongum violascens transeuns; stigma valde bilobatum intense violaceum. Fructus (maturus?) cylindricus, 15 mm. longus, 3 mm. latus, breviter pilosus, calyce persistente suffultus.

Tanganyika Territory. West Usambaras, Schume, 1950 m.. flowers very pale mauve, almost white, W. M. Moreau (Amani Herb. No. 9340). West Usambaras, Schume, World's View, 1950 m.; a perennial, fleshy-leaved rosette herb growing amongst mosses and leaf mould on gneiss rocks and on their faces; leaves pale to dark olive green with conspicuous scattered long hairs on the upper surface; flowers very pale mauve, almost white, 1-3 to a scape, peduncle not as long as the petiole and not very floriferous; not common in dry Juniperus, Podocarpus, Olea, Rapanea, Casearia, Cassipourea forest on cliff face, 8 March 1947, P. J. Greenway, 7934 (Kew, Amani); cult. in Roy. Bot. Gard. Kew from this number (holotype, Kew, Edinburgh).

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LOOK - NO CROWN ROT

Forrest Richter, Richter's Greenhouse,
Hammond, Indiana

There have been many articles written on soil mixtures and the effects of the various mixtures in growing African violets. In most of these soil "recipes" there is no mention of calcium, and we firmly believe that calcium is the key to good growing.

Several years ago we were using a medium acid soil with a pH of 6.2 to 6.6 for our violets. We had an average of five percent to ten percent loss due to crown rot, with the trouble especially bad in the summer time. We tried all the usual remedies, but still the trouble with crown rot persisted. Then we changed our soil mixture to include calcium carbonate, and our troubles stopped: no crown rot! Also the plants showed an immediate increase in blooms, better growth, and increased vigor. Our soil mixture at this time will test one hundred and fifty to two hundred parts per million of calcium. We raise many thousands of plants each year, and can truthfully say that we have no crown rot.

Calcium may be considered the key that enables the growing plant to utilize the plant food available in the soil. If the soil becomes deficient in calcium, many times the plant cannot assimilate the other necessary elements of plant food, with the result that there will be a build-up of fertilizer in the pot. A soil that is mostly peat will increase in acidity gradually. Sometimes even a slight change in the pH of the soil will put the soil out of balance, and the plant suffers.

In the spring, when the demand is especially heavy and we need hundreds of blooming plants in a hurry, we use lime water to hasten growth and bloom. We apply the lime water through a Hozon, soaking the plants thoroughly — flowers, leaves and everything. In about three days we can see the results, and the plants look as if they have had a transfusion.

We realize there are many soil mixtures that are being used with good results. Undoubtedly different sections of the country have different problems, and quite possibly your "pet recipe" for soil is fine for your particular section of the country and your particular needs. However, there are many soil mixtures that would be improved if lime in some form were used. In many sections the water has a good lime content due to limestone deposits, or possibly the base soil you are using has a good lime content. However, if this is not the case, just try a little experiment. Put about half a teaspoon of pulverized eggshell (an excellent source of calcium) on the top of the soil of one of your

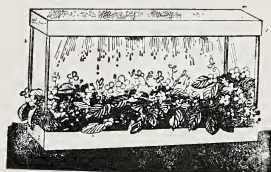
plants. Water well from the top. If the plant is in need of calcium, you will notice an improvement in about a week's time. We have suggested this to many of the people who come to the greenhouse, and they have been most enthusiastic about the results.

For our potting mix in the greenhouse, we add the necessary calcium in the form of calcium carbonate and Hybro-Tite, added after the soil has been steam sterilized. This gives our soil a pH of 6.8 to 7.0, about neutral, and this mixture gives us excellent results.

There have been many explanations of crown rot, but from our own experience we are inclined to believe that crown rot is almost always caused by an unbalance of the pH of the soil, and lack of calcium. end

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Poets Corner

A BIT OF INCONSISTENCY

One day I fuss and fret and fume
Because my violets bear no bloom;
The next, I gaze in adoration mute
Upon my rows of coleus,
Vigorous, varied, gorgeous;
And wish for nothing but leaves.

Sophie C. Brown
Chicago, Ill.

VIOLET LOVE

The love of my life is "Navy Bouquet,"
The blossoms so lovely, so perky, so gay.
We all lose our hearts and most of our time,
But never regret it, for they are so fine.

Mrs. Harold Hazen
Miami, Florida

A VIOLET DREAM

The day was dark and chill and dreary,
My head did ache and I was weary.
I fell to nodding, and then I dreamed;
How happy I am things are not as they seemed.

My mind was confused as I dreamed today,
That violets were people and here to stay.
Some faces were purple, with eyes of blue;
Some eyes were yellow, with hair of a pinkish hue.
Others were colored a spotted green,
The queerest people that you have ever seen.

I was glad to know when I awoke,
There really are not any such folk.
We can go ahead with violet creation,
And propagate plants that cause a sensation.

Alice M. Cleveland
Lebanon, Tennessee

VIOLET MOODS

Violets are my inspiration . . . When I am sad
. . . They make me glad . . . They are my sun-
shine . . . Even when evening is nigh.

Mrs. John Patrick
Miami, Florida

THE GIRLS IN THE VIOLET CLUBS

In all womankind there is much good, we find,
But I would respectfully dub
The best to be found the whole country around
Are the girls in the Violet Club.

Both rich ones and poor ones
and tired, insecure ones,
A Vanderbilt or an O'Grady,
A sweet, simple wench with a violet bench
Is always a very great lady.

They're free with their gifts
and with laughter that lifts,
They're gentle and always forebearing;
They help a beginner and cheer a Show winner,
And warmly these Clubbers are sharing.

Plants, leaves, or advice,
but are always too nice
To be snooty, too busy to snub; —
The wonderful queens who can always be seen
In an African Violet Club.

Helena Street
Omaha, Nebraska

VIOLET THOUGHTS

When I view my violets
At their very best
I muse and say, "How wonderful,"
I certainly have been blessed.

A few months and some days later
They're dog-eared and slightly brown.
The remark you'd probably hear would be
They're "the darndest plants in town."

Lillian Stone
Wichita, Kansas

OLE AND THE WPLETS

May gudeness, Ay ban busy man.
Lena, she go wisiting.
She mak' me wi'let-sit for her —
For Lena, Ay do any'ting!

But Ay skall have vun yolly time —
Ay go to wi'let show!
Peeples grand og wi'lets fine;
But vot Ay vant to know,
From vun leaf all dese wi'lets grow?

Nice ladies at long table dare,
Dey know so mange t'ings —
Viggly verms, og mites, og yerms,
Og leetle bugs vith vings.

Ay say, "Vot mostly peeples ask?"
Day tells me, sighs it brings:
"Of t'ousand questions peeple; asks,
Nine hundred asks, 'How skall Ay mak'
dose wi'lets in cellar, or kitchen,
or parlor-room,
Dose beeg, green, fat, nice healt'y, miz'ble
wi'lets bloom?'"

May Lena, she ban smart, you bet!
Her wi'lets bloom lak' national debt!

Prudence T. Olsen
Seattle, Washington

President's Message



Mr. Harvey

There are a little more than one hundred Commercial Members listed in our most recent Members' Handbook: one hundred and thirteen, to be exact. These are, beyond a doubt, the most important one hundred members we have in the African Violet Society. It can be positively shown that, in the eyes of our Treasurer at least, every Commercial Member is over three times as important as is any Amateur Member. This is proven by the fact that the Commercial's annual dues are \$13.33, which sum is well over three times the \$4.00 collected from mere Amateurs like you and me.

The Commercial Members are the backbone of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. They were the backbone of all African violet activity long before there was any such thing as a Society. It was Mr. Walter Armacost, of Armacost & Royston, who put the African violet on the map as an important house plant with his introduction of "Blue Boy," in 1936, ten years before our Society was organized. But after a few years of struggling with the marketing of the plant, its commercial propagation was abandoned. Clarissa Harris says that the reason for this was that, "the individual growers who govern the popularity of the plant were not well enough versed in its growing requirements to make their demands felt on the horticulturists." (African Violet Magazine, June, 1953)

I like to think that if the African Violet Society had been in existence when Mr. Armacost was trying to promote the sale of African violets, he would not have had that reason for ceasing to grow them and his path would have been a lot easier. Right now there are an awful lot of individual growers who are exceedingly well versed in the growing requirements of the African violet, and I am certain that the African Violet Society can claim some of the credit for this condition.

In the operation of the Society, the contributions of our Commercial Members, when the extremely small percentage they are of the entire membership is considered, have been outstanding. Two of our Past Presidents, the first one, Ferne Kellar, and our most recent Past President, Bill Carter, are Commercial. Our Research Committee has had a Commercial Member as Chairman ever since it was organized: first Henry Peterson and now Neil Miller. Charles Fischer is presently the Chairman of the American Horticultural Council Committee. Pearl Turner heads up the Official Pin Committee. Three of the present twelve Directors are Commercial: Albert Buell, Mrs. E. H. Thomas and Mrs. H. W. Martin. This by no means exhausts the list — it is just a small start — but it should suffice to show that this small group of one hundred and thirteen people are really putting out mightily for the Society. No, we could not get along without our Commercial.

They put on a Commercial Exhibit at our Annual Conventions that is always a "blinger." There are numerous people who will tell you that if this exhibit were the only thing at the Convention, it would still be worth a person's time and expense to come just to see that one thing. Such an extremist considers that the rest of the Convention is a sort of extra or bonus tacked on to the Commercial Exhibit . . . the new varieties displayed there, the originality and new ideas that are there for the taking, as well as the exquisite pleasure of just seeing such a group of gorgeous displays together in one place at one time is enough to justify the extravagant admiration that is always expressed in profusion. The advances and developments of the entire African violet picture in the United States can be followed year after year by simply watching and recording the Commercial Exhibits.

Booths are also set up at the Conventions where they offer both plants — brand new varieties — and supplies for sale. One favorite, and never failing, source of amusement at the Conventions is to watch ourselves scrambling to get our extensive and possibly slightly too optimistic purchases organized for the journey home. It is just as much fun (with a lot more future to it) for the strugglers as it is for the onlookers. It is good both for the buying members and the selling members as well as for the Society to which they belong. More power to both of 'em. May the sellers sell more and more as time rolls on. May the buyer buy even more and have an even greater scramble before they successfully get things arranged so that they can transport their purchases triumphantly home by auto, bus, train or plane.

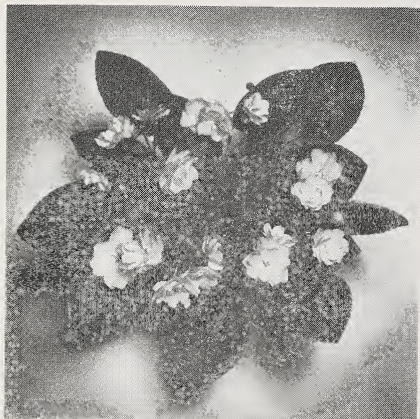
We are all pulling for our Commercial. Long may they live, mightily may they prosper, and greatly may their number increase. The Society wishes to be of all the assistance it can possibly be to them. It is earnestly seeking new ways in which it can help them. Mrs. Landaker, Chairman of the Commercial Sales and Exhibits Committee, has a number of thoughts along the lines of improving and increasing our services to our Commercial Members, and she will be glad to receive further ideas or suggestions that any of you may come up with.

Those of you who know Priscilla Landaker are aware that she has plenty of initiative, push, and willingness to work to convert her ideas into action. I will certainly back her to the limit. Our Commercial Members themselves are not slouches when it comes to getting things done. So it looks as if with all of us working together, Society conditions should start getting better rather quickly for our Commercial than they are right now.

Most sincerely,

H. G. Harvey

Introducing- NEW VARIETIES FOR 1959

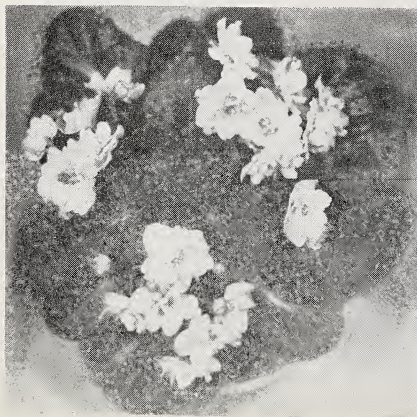


Above, **LILIAN JARRETT** from Tinari Greenhouses, Bethayres, Pennsylvania.

This is a delicate, soft peach pink blossom, open double inlaid type. A very floriferous type of plant and flowers in great profusion. Makes a good show plant as the foliage is firm and large and the growth is symmetrical and graceful. The leaf has a slightly sawtooth edge and is pointed.

Below, **CINDY**, from Naomi's African Violets, Brockport, New York.

Frilly medium pink full double flowers on non-bunching, dark olive-green, round, girl foliage. A heavy blooming variety, usually sending up two flower stalks per leaf.



Above, **LOTUS SUNTONE**, from The Select Violet House, Youngstown, Ohio.

Large loose double, beautifully shaded peach blossom color flower. Dark green, girl foliage. Distinctive variety. R. G. Baxter, originator.

Below, **3-D**, from F. M. Haga & Son, Charlotte, North Carolina.

Has lovely quilted, girl foliage resembling the watermelon begonia. Medium color lavender bloom.



Below, **L TULANA CLOUD**, from Arndt's Floral Gardens, Troutdale, Oregon.

The foliage is very large, ruffled an inch deep on the edges, and shows vivid wine underneath. The blooms are large, at least two inches, and are a pretty powder blue with a wide white edge that is always there regardless of any temperature or light change.





Above, RACY RED, from Lyndon Lyon, Dolgeville, New York.

A red riot of huge cherry red stars is the exciting new red rave for 1959. Compact like its parent Redderness, redder and more vigorous, it is an instant hit.

Below, WEDGEWOOD, from Richter's Greenhouse, Hammond, Indiana.

A beautiful light blue double, with the blossoms borne in great profusion. The foliage is extremely dark, and is beautifully waved. The light blue blooms and very dark foliage make this a truly outstanding plant. It grows rapidly and is easily groomed to make a symmetrical specimen plant.



Below, JERSEY BEAUTY, from Fischer Greenhouses, Linwood, New Jersey.

Deep pink, fringed blossoms of unusual size and texture. Fine foliage. One of the nicest of their new offerings, and the best Fischer fringed pink yet.



Below, MAYFLOWER, from Baxter's Greenhouse, New Waterford, Ohio.

A pale pink single of good substance and color. The edge of the petals has a distinct dark line (not a margin) of a darker pink, that sets off each flower. The foliage is quilted and glossy, strong and supple, but not Supreme. It is sometimes quite bronzy. A floriferous variety.



I BELIEVE

Bess Dykeman, South Bend, Indiana

Material based on the book GARDENING INDOORS UNDER LIGHTS by Frederick and Jacqueline Kranz is included by special permission of the publishers of the book, The Viking Press, New York, (\$4.95).

Although at the present time my interest is centered on bloom ability, I can see in the future the possibility that my interest may shift from bloom to bloom plus show ability. If the time should arrive when I have satisfied myself that under most circumstances we can get plants to flower well, I shall want a fresh world to conquer, or rather, a new field of endeavor.

I doubt if we ever show, for Dyke would need to become interested in order for me to get to the shows. So any efforts in that direction would be limited to our own private world of Saintpaulias.

So, go forth into the wide world, little article, and help if you can some person somewhere to grow African violets that will bloom better.

What kind of soil do you use? What fertilizer do you recommend? How often do you water? Which window is best? Do you water from top or bottom? These are but a few of the many questions we hear from people who are having trouble growing African violets. How can I get my violets to bloom is a question I have heard so often I would think it amusing if, at the same time, I did not find it pathetic. Crown and root rot still trouble many a grower and most of the people I know have not yet found a soil so satisfactory that they are never even tempted to use any other.

The replies made to these questions are as many and as varied as the environments in which our own Saintpaulias are grown. Experienced growers are influenced in their answers by many factors, the kind and degree of light used, the type of planting medium preferred, the soil formula used, the amount of humidity one can supply, the geographical area in which the plants are being grown, and even the type and size of pots the grower uses.

POOR LULA

"Ruth uses nothing but A on her violets, and they look wonderful," Lula told me months ago. She therefore decided to use A on all her own Saintpaulias. A month or so later she called me. "I wish you could see Marian's plants. They are just covered with flowers. She fertilizers with Y, so I bought some. I'll bet now my violets will bloom."

A couple of months later I asked Lula how her African violets were getting along. "Oh, they look all right, but they are not blooming. I cannot understand it."

In a few days she reported again, "Pat says she always waters from the bottom with boiling water. I'm going to try it."

I didn't hear from her for quite a long time. One day she called me to say tearfully, "My violets look just terrible. I've watered and watered, but still the leaves are limpy. What is the matter?"

"What have you been doing to them?" I asked.

"Not a thing," she answered, but questions revealed the fact that she had followed Della's advice and had repotted all of her plants into the planting medium Della uses. I happened to know that this was an all organic mixture which could hold huge amounts of moisture. Root and crown rot had developed and most of Lula's violets were on their way to oblivion.

Poor Lula! So eager, yet so impatient! So willing to take everybody's advice! Is there nothing I can do to help her? In the final analysis I believe the solution to her problems will lie with Lula herself. She has received so much advice that she has acquired a tangled, confused jungle of information, and she cannot find her way through it. She could, if she wished, find an answer by reading any one of a number of articles and books written by people well qualified to tell her what she needs to know. But my little friend does not enjoy reading. She would like to be told in simple, understandable language, just how to go about growing African violets successfully.

Now you and I know it is not always quite that simple. I used to give reams of advice to others; I urged them to try my soil formula; I recommended certain brands of fertilizer; I pleaded with them to furnish more light.

"What is your secret?" I was asked at a recent club meeting. I have no secret. Any information I have is available to everyone. Reading matter is now freely being published. But I have learned that many, many people cannot find the answers to their questions in the pages of a book. For most people growing Saintpaulias is just a side issue. Most people are too busy to find the time necessary to delve into the subject of an African violet's allergies. While they like to grow them and wish violently that their violets would bloom, they lack the know-how to make that possible.

I believe that the very fact that some of us give so much advice may have inclined our listeners to the belief that African violets are difficult. Should we not, instead, point out the

fact that they are not difficult, they are merely different. I tried to explain this to Lula one day when she had stopped by to show me two of her plants. Sad looking indeed they were. One look told me they had had it.

"But you have a green thumb," she wailed. "Everything grows for you," which remark was not true of course. Haven't I been trying for five years to get my Hoya to bloom? Do I not yearn each spring for my *Kalanchoe uniflora* to put forth its blossoms?

"Any success that has come my way is certainly not due to any green thumb. I have worked and read for years to find an answer to my problem of scant bloom. It is foolish to say that if you just love your African violets enough they will respond by blooming well. When I was teaching school I ran across many cases where tender, loving care on the part of parents failed to produce self-reliant, well-adjusted children. Too often I felt that far better results would have been achieved if their love had been accompanied by a little knowledge of child psychology properly applied at crucial moments.

"You will find, Lula, that you will get along quite well after you have learned a bit about an African violet's likes and dislikes. It is very rewarding to have within yourself the basic knowledge necessary to solve the problems which arise as we grow this particular plant. It is frustrating to keep running into difficulties that we cannot solve until we rush frantically to the telephone and put through an 'I'm in trouble' call to someone more experienced than we are. Not that seasoned growers are not willing to lend an ear and extend a helping hand. But unless your informant is acquainted with all the cultural methods you follow she will find it exceedingly difficult to diagnose your trouble. Indeed, it is perfectly possible that her advice may be catastrophic under certain conditions. Have salt within yourself with which to season the care and attention you give your Saint-paulias."

As it is often the case, my words fell on deaf ears. For, "Maybe I'd better follow Norma's advice," Lula interposed. "She says she pays practically no attention to her violets, yet they bloom like mad," the inference being that neglect pays off.

"But Norma is an old hand at raising violets and house plants. Having had a lot of experience she cares for her plants almost automatically. She isn't everlastingly at them. I suspect that she happens to live in a house that African violets like. In other words, the environment is right. In any case, don't for a minute believe that she utterly neglects her plants. You aren't going to like this, Lula, but you are going to have to work out your problems for yourself. Your friends may give you advice, by way of guiding you, but you will have to learn to walk alone. Every person who grows Saintpaulias successfully has had to learn this lesson. You must substitute patience for impulsiveness. You must learn what

to do, when to do it, and when to leave your violets alone. Open the fingers of your hand and I will explain what I believe is involved in this green thumb bogey.



"Let your thumb represent patience, your index finger observation, the middle one understanding (which is knowledge), the next finger tolerance, and your little finger humility. When you find yourself becoming impatient when you long to try something else, open your hand and say a magic word—P O U T H. You will discover eventually that this word, properly understood, will be for you a thing of far more value than the green thumb about which people so glibly speak. Instead of a green thumb you will possess a green hand which can unlock for you the door that reveals the secret of how to help your violets to bloom.

"Having gone through a try-everything period myself, I may be in a position to give you a few pointers. I believe it is far safer to follow the advice of such well-known authorities as H. G. Harvey and others who have written articles containing the results of their years' experience. These experts tell us that African violets require a low nitrogen, high phosphorus, medium potash level. This is the No. 1 rule that guides me when I mix together the ingredients required in my soil formula. These same authorities inform us that our planting mediums should be porous and well-drained. This is my No. 2 rule and is of equal importance. We are told that for the great majority of growers a mixture of soil, sand (or its equivalent) and humus will give us a planting medium that is safer to use than an all organic mixture. I am not going to confuse you, Lula, by explaining why this is true, but I strongly believe that beginners and growers who are having difficulties would find their results much more satisfactory if they would incorporate actual soil into their potting mixtures. Most recipes for African violet soils call for good garden soil. Doesn't this sound simple? But for city folks, it isn't simple at all. So the majority of us must content ourselves with bought soil. Now, most of such soils are deficient in phosphorus, so to offset this lack we can add superphosphate to our soils at the rate of one tablespoon to three,

four or five cups of soil, depending on the size of the plants to go into the soil. I believe that amateurs usually have more or less trouble with root rot and crown rot, so to help ward off these dangers I recommend that they use perlite or Sponge-Rok as a lightening agent instead of sand or vermiculite. This gives us an airy mix."

Having experimented for years with every type of humus available, I have settled for peat moss. Why? The answer is simple. I can always buy it at a moment's notice. I am tired of reading these involved soil recipes which call for ingredients most of us are unable to obtain. If we can get hold of them, they are priced beyond what we can afford to pay. I am completely satisfied that peat moss, as the only source for humus in my potting soil, gives me every bit as satisfactory results as any other organic material I have ever tried, bar none. It is always the same, always available, and has the added advantage of being inexpensive. Peat moss becomes quite acid as it decomposes, so lime in some form must be added. The Kranzs use whiting, which can be purchased at any paint store. These people finally settled on a recipe that is very simple yet very effective. In rereading an old African Violet Magazine I ran across a soil formula that contained the same materials and in the identical amounts, but no form of lime was added at the time of mixing. The authors of the book, "Gardening Indoors Under Lights," add whiting in order to maintain the potting soil in a near neutral soil pH, which is what our authorities everywhere seem to favor. The recipe given by Jacqueline and Frederick Kranz is as follows:

- 4 cups good garden soil (clay loam)
- 4 cups peat moss (they prefer the kind imported from West Germany)
- 2 cups vermiculite (plasterer's aggregate)
- 6 teaspoons whiting

They stress the importance of thorough mixing in order to obtain a high quality potting soil with a good texture. And we all know how important texture is in African violet soil. The soil and peat moss were first put separately through a No. 6 hardware cloth screen (supplied by any hardware store) in a dry condition. To the ten cups of mixed ingredients add about one-half cup of water, just enough to prevent dusting. No fertilizer is advised at this time. Now put all these moistened materials through a No. 6 screen. Push and rub it through. Do not sift it, or it will settle in layers and not be thoroughly mixed. To avoid pockets where acids can form, the lime (whiting) and peat moss must be completely mixed with the soil and vermiculite. If you do the mixing by hand, mix until you are sure it is right, and then mix it some more. The screen is better, of course, as more air can be incorporated into the mix. In a short time after mixing, soil bacteria having entered your soil, it will become activated and alive with grow power.

I believe it may be helpful at this point to point out to you the fact that soil and potting

soil are not the same thing. Soil is sometimes referred to as dirt, but, as the Kranzs say, dirt is dirt only to a cleaning woman. I was amused and also helped by the authors' story of how they discovered the correct type of so-called dirt to use in their potting soil. They learned a lesson by watching a little girl make mud pies. If the little "pie" refused to hold a pie shape, it wasn't any good. If, on the other hand, it would bend but not break, it held too much clay and it wasn't good "pie dirt" either. But, if the small pat of moistened soil made a nice little pie which broke into bite-sized pieces, then it was just right in order that the child's dolls could each receive a piece of mud pie, and also just right to use as a basis for potting soil. This type of soil is called clay loam, and it happens to be exactly the kind I buy under the label African Violet Soil. Do try making mud pies with the "dirt" you put in your African violet potting soil mixture and you will find, as I did, that with the addition of exactly the kind and amounts of materials specified the resulting medium will, after being carefully and thoroughly mixed, produce a potting soil of excellent texture. It feels just right.

Now inasmuch as many people do have root and crown rot trouble, I recommend that perlite (plasterer's aggregate purchased at a building supply store) be used in place of vermiculite. This will prevent the soil from packing together at a later date, for vermiculite will, under pressure or repeated waterings, break down, whereas perlite or the Sponge-Rok that I use instead of sand will never break down. It will allow air to move freely through our soil and soils must have atmosphere and plant roots must have air, just as we do, and, like us, they die if they cannot get it.

After trying out the original recipe in the book, I found that small plants simply thrived in the mixture but when mature plants were planted in it they developed an occasional yellowing of a few outer leaves. I wasn't able to remove much of the old soil clinging to the roots, and the mixture of my old and their new soils was incompatible, I presume. So I understand why the authors recommend starting from a leaf. Now I propagate in my own favorite way, using my own rooting medium, and when it is time to pot up the little plantlets I set them in two and one-quarter or two and one-half inch pots, using the Kranzs' soil formula. It was quite a long process to start from scratch with leaves of all my favorite cultivars and raise a new crop of African violets in order that from infancy on to full maturity they might live their lives in no other soil. But it has paid off. Of course this process is still continuing, and, in the meantime I have worked and experimented, repotting all of my older specimens into a potting medium almost exactly like the original. My recipe goes like this:

- 4 cups clay loam (mud pie quality)
- 4 cups peat moss (screened)
- 2 cups Sponge-Rok
(advertised in Magazine)
- 4 teaspoons whiting
- 2 tablespoons superphosphate

1 teaspoon blood meal or soybean meal
(ask at any grain elevator)

This mixture produces earlier maturity, stockier plants and much more vigorous roots. I believe the soil (dirt) I am obliged to use in my potting soil is deficient in phosphorus. Most potting soils are, so to offset this lack I add superphosphate. Bone meal can be used instead. Fish Emulsion can be used in place of any other fertilizer in this mix. I have used Instant Vigoro also, but omitted the blood meal and superphosphate then, of course. I had simply marvelous bloom power as well as grow power when I followed the original recipe and added two teaspoons of Feralon. This product is no longer available to me in large sized packages, which is a severe disappointment. I label all plants with the particular ingredient I added as a fertilizing agent, with the date potted up. Only by so doing could I be certain which product produced quicker or better results. But any nutrient agent added was always kept to a minimum. Any larger amounts will not produce better results.

The Kranzs prefer to keep their potting soil free from additional fertilizers as they feel they have better control over their feeding program if they do it at a later date as the plants need it. After potting up the little plants, the authors allow the violet (or other house plant) to become root-bound, a matter of only a few weeks, perhaps only three or four. Then they feed once a month with a liquid plant food composed of Ra-Pid-Gro and Gilbert's Solution for Soilless Culture. I haven't found a source for this product as yet so I follow my usual feeding schedule and have had excellent results by so doing. On the Monday I do my washing I mix up a solution of water plus a high phosphorus fertilizer. Watch that middle number on your container of plant food. It must be higher than either the first or third numbers if it is to supply the phosphorus plants need in steady supply if they are to bloom well and become sturdy and stocky with vigorous root systems. Plant Marvel or Instant Vigoro are good examples.

In two weeks, again on a Monday, I feed again, this time using Ra-Pid-Gro which has a higher first number. I vary this sometimes by using Fish Emulsion instead of Ra-Pid-Gro, never both at the same time. It is the regularity of application that counts rather than excessive amounts given at rare intervals. If a little is good, and it is, more is not better, so do not be tempted to overfeed. I can fertilize the year around, as my plants are basement grown under artificial lights, and as a result they grow and bloom without a letup, only blooming less heavily in hot weather. But upstairs, growth is less in summer so feeding ceases until the advent of cooler weather in autumn.

I use this same soil for all my house plants and find it entirely satisfactory for everything except acid-loving plants such as azaleas and the like. For them we omit the whitening, as advised by Kranzs.

This then is our interpretation of the soil recipe and method of procedure advanced by the

authors of this fascinating and oh, so helpful book, "Growing Plants Indoors Under Lights."

Our Saintpaulias fairly shout their approval of this our latest effort to produce a satisfactory soil mixture. "This we like," they say to us, "even though you are leaving us alone and unattended for a week at a time." For a lucky set of circumstances makes it possible for us to spend the summer and fall months at a nearby lake, necessitating a six days absence each week. Sitting in their trays which contain moistened oyster shells, these African violets don't even miss us. It is now the middle of July and the six tables glow with color. We took care of necessary repotting in the spring, fortunately. We have been away for seven weeks now and during that time I have given just one application of complete plant food, in this case Plant Marvel. In a week or so I shall use Ra-Pid-Gro according to directions on the label. Each Wednesday while my clothes are washing I remove spent blossoms and old flower stalks, do what spot watering is necessary, and add warm water to all trays, being careful that the water level does not reach the bottom of the pots. Last week I found one tray that contained African violets, the majority of which were quite dry. So I allowed the water to reach just the base of each pot. This is my usual procedure in such cases. Top watering alone will not encourage roots to penetrate the soil deeply. Many of the pots now have roots which have entered the moist oyster shells in the trays through the opening at the bottom of the flower pots. I am not a bit concerned about this as I have found violets thrive when in this condition. I shall repot this fall after we get home. In the seven weeks that have passed I have lost just one African violet. "Patrice" was set down too far into the tray and became so water-logged that her roots refused to function any longer. By the way, this plant was an old one which had never been transferred to our new soil, and I believe this was a factor involved in her demise for other plants so placed and as moist are in good shape. So you see, I am still learning something new. From now on I will add less water each week to the trays and allow a drying out period occasionally. I could not, of course, follow this absent treatment were the violets still up in the living room.

I have digressed, I know, so for a moment let's go back and consider the results of a careful mixing of soil, peat, perlite and whitening. Our resulting soil will feel somewhat gritty, but it will also be a little spongy to the touch. Now, if one decides to use this soil, I believe a grower should use it exclusively after she has decided it is what she wants. If our violets are planted in three or four or perhaps more types of soil, how can we safely fertilize. The soils being different, they will undoubtedly need to be fed differently and watered differently. It is unwise and unsafe to treat alike plants placed in so many planting mediums. Should you decide after a thorough trial that any particular soil, be it this one or any other, is giving you better results than you have ever had before, then do stick with

it. Let no one tempt you to try anything else unless such a time should arise when some person can prove beyond the shadow of a doubt that her violets are superior to yours because of a superior potting soil. As our little finger indicates, be humble. Be willing to learn from others, be they professionals or amateurs.

I have received much mail and many telephone calls from people asking for help. Sometimes we can help these folks, sometimes not. My second observation finger has led me to see the real reason back of many, many failures. Dare I publish the fact that I believe the most common cause for the sad looking Saintpaulias I see far too often is irregular care and attention. If a violet has a need today or this week, then the happiness and health of that plant depends on its present need being answered immediately. If we neglect to water today any violet which needs it, it is not going to thank you if you decide tomorrow will do as well, and tomorrow decide to give it and possibly all your African violets a good big drink to offset yesterday's lack. Perhaps all of your plants are not thirsty today, but you water heavily nevertheless. What happens? Sooner or later this desert to jungle condition will cause a violent reaction on the part of a cherished violet and poof—away it goes. If we have many Saintpaulias, and most of us do, it becomes a labor to water and feed correctly and at the specified time. Of course, unless we do indeed have far too many plants, as I do, it is a labor of love.

Another question which troubles people is the repotting angle. How often? How to do it? How to tell when it is necessary? Drainage material to use? I believe I hit the jackpot on this subject when I purchased Kranz's book. Since reading what they have to say, I proceed as follows: After potting up my little plants for the first time in two and one-half inch pots, I let them remain in these pots until they are in a riotous state of bloom. Rarely do the roots indicate a need for shifting the plant before this. How do I know? Every so often I turn my plants (both young and old) out of their pots and examine the roots. If growing properly, roots grow down and out "like a ballerina's skirt," penetrating the entire pot of soil. This is a state devoutly to be desired. If, however, we find a small bunch of roots barely reaching through the topsoil, we may assume the soil is incompatible (provided the plant has been in the pot for a reasonable length of time) and we can take steps then to remedy the situation. We may on occasion find we have waited too long and a jumble of intertwined roots may be crawling around the sides of the pot, seeking nourishment and moisture. But if we will form the habit of inspecting the roots periodically, a too pot-bound situation never arises.

I use no drainage material in the bottom of my pots, as I wish close contact between moist shells or grit and pot base. Moisture transfer from beneath the roots in pots is better if

no drainage matter interferes. The type of soil advocated by Kranz's allows both air and water to pass freely through it and encourages roots to go seeking moisture from below. Note: I say moisture, not water.

This autumn when I get ready to repot the violets whose roots show through the hole at the base I will simply give the clay pots a sharp rap with a hammer, take away the broken pieces and then repot into a size larger and deeper container. Thus no root disturbance is necessary. I have learned something new to me this past year. Heretofore I have repotted twice a year for the most part. At the time I was ready to transplant, illness prevented me from doing the work. I continued to fertilize as usual for some of the plants had slowed considerably in bloom production. After a waiting period of three or four weeks when only a fair amount of bloom showed, buds began to form in large numbers all around the crowns and before long the tables once again showed a large amount of color. My usual practice is to repot when the violet is in full bloom before a pot-bound condition develops. By so doing I avoid a no-bloom period. Repot at least once a year we are told, but for me a twice a year operation produces more flowers over a longer period of time. Plants bloom more steadily with fewer and shorter rest periods. But it is comforting to know that if circumstances make it impossible to repot as often as I should like, by thoughtful and diligent care the violets will continue to blossom well.

Garden Lane still receives calls from people who are unable to propagate from a leaf regardless of what rooting medium is used. The following suggestion has helped some of these people. Instead of cutting the petiole at an angle, try making a sharp, straight cut.



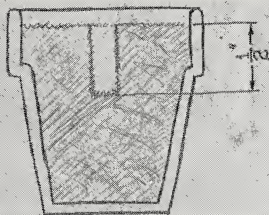
NOT THIS



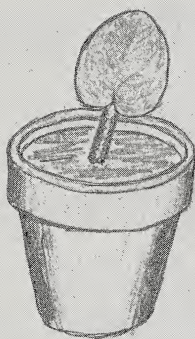
TRY THIS

Fill your little pot with moist vermiculite and peat moss or your own favorite medium. With a straight edged dowelpin or round stake make a half inch depression in the center, being certain (See Figure 1 at top next page) you exert a slight pressure as you press down on the wooden pin. This is so a firm foundation may be made upon which your leaf stem may rest firmly. Thus close contact can be a certainty, and you are less likely to have an air pocket develop later when the petiole might lose touch with the vermiculite. You may get fewer plants by

following this method, but most of us get far more than we know what to do with anyway. Do not push down hard. "Gently but firmly" does it. If you have space around the stem after inserting it, carefully fill in with rather fine, dry vermiculite. Water this with a teaspoon or



Above, Figure 1. Below, Figure 2.



so of warm water, just enough to have the whole mass of rooting mixture moist, not soggy wet. Keep this just moist and you should have no leaf rotting trouble.

If it is winter time, try covering the whole with Saran Wrap over three small stakes inserted (See Figure 3, top next column) in the pot. Cut three or four small holes at the top of the covering to allow excessive moisture to escape. Keep in good light, but not strong sunshine. You may not need to water for a long time, but watch for signs of drought or excessive moisture and take steps accordingly.

If one insists on rooting in water, and many folks have success in no other way, then I believe it is safer to remove to a rooting mixture at the first sign of roots. Even one-sixteenth inch roots will transfer more safely than if we wait until long roots form, which will cling together in a bunch when removed from water. Water roots are tender, so treat them lovingly when you insert them in a rooting medium. If you will dip the tiny, fine roots in dry vermiculite first, before you plant them, they will be less likely to mat together. Proceed as directed above, but work lightly. Remember these are baby roots. But do

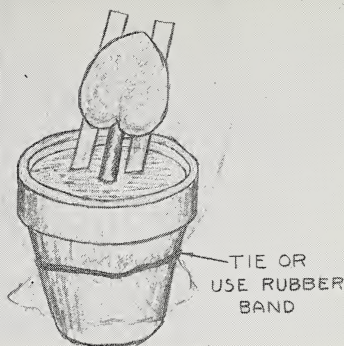


Figure 3

be sure the sixteenth or quarter-inch roots touch the flat-bottomed base in your pot of vermiculite. Fill in with dry material which you can moisten afterwards.

I FIRMLY BELIEVE

I firmly believe that if we insist on using some special potting soil that has become our favorite planting medium, then we should learn how to use that soil to the very best advantage. We must learn how to adapt our growing technique to the type of soil we use. On the other hand, if the way we must grow our African violets is more or less set because of the conditions in our home, then we would be wise to seek a planting medium which will conform to our environment. We cannot have it both ways. I believe that therein lay my difficulties for a long time. I kept changing soils in an effort to find the one. And at the same time I was trying to change the conditions under which I grew my plants. I found I could not eat my cake and have it too. After just so much adjusting I discovered that there was absolutely nothing I could do to create the ideal environment so I yielded to the inevitable. I settled for what I could get. And finally I found that under our setup, and taking into consideration the fact that bloom was of paramount importance to me, the four soil, four peat moss, two Sponge-Rok, plus whitening mixture was giving me the best results I have had up to the present time. I have never claimed that our plants are better in any way or bloom better than others. I only know that for us this is the best to date.

I do not claim that this soil will work wonders for everybody. In fact, others have tried it with varying degrees of success. It is no surprise to me to learn that what works for me may prove unsuccessful for someone else. The reasons are not hard to find. A thorough trial was not made. Only a few plants were grown in it. It was not carefully mixed. Incorrect amounts of one or the other ingredient were added. Perhaps only older, mature plants were potted in it. Maybe the wrong type of soil (clay loam) was used. Of even greater importance, it is possible that

only a month or two's time was allowed before judgment was passed. Any one of a dozen factors could change the potting soil to such a degree that African violets planted in it failed to respond as expected. Perhaps some people expect a miracle overnight. Months must pass before it is fair to decide on the merits or demerits of any soil formula, be it this one or any other, Patience, our green hand thumb, says to us.

I believe some of us fail to keep in mind the fact that there are two approaches to the problem of feeding. We can use a soil so rich in itself that no additional food is indicated for the length of time a violet is in a pot. Or we may use a bland potting soil such as recommended by the Kranzs and fertilize subsequently when necessary. There are two schools of thought on this subject. I have tried both ways. I have grown the organic way and I have tried the "add later" method, and I say quite frankly that my African violets do not seem to know the difference. I have found that any rich soil I have tried resulted eventually in plants which deteriorated in appearance and bloom power much more quickly than was the case after I began using our present soil and following a regular feeding schedule. Eventually the organically grown plants required additional feeding or a short-bloom or out-of-bloom period followed. Our present soil does not deteriorate until a much later date so frequently repotting is not necessary. This simplifies the whole growing procedure. We get early maturity and better bloom. People talk about their "good, rich soil" and give glowing reports of how wonderfully their violets grow. Some of our visitors are so eloquent in praises of their own Saintpaulias that after they leave I have the sensation of being a deflated balloon. I have never expected my plants to be better than my guests violets are, but I should like to have them bloom as well as those I see occasionally in other homes.

Sometimes a guest will become so enthusiastic in praise that I begin to believe that many other people are seeking the way to better bloom. The very best advice I can give to these people is to say, "Grow only good blooming cultivars." I just do not mess around with African violets that are poor or shy bloomers. I have gone all out for heavy blooming violets. I believe too many of us for far too long a time have been satisfied with mediocrity. If a certain cultivar is capable of producing thirty, forty or fifty flowers; if someone else can get a certain Saintpaulia to have sixty open flowers at one time; then I want mine to do likewise. In this process of working toward abundant flowering I may to a certain extent lose sight of the fact that leaf color or design may not be all it should be, but never entirely.

Let us help each other so that all of us may have the pleasure of seeing most of our violets in full, glorious bloom! Don't say it isn't possible! Don't even believe it isn't possible. Others are doing it, and if they can do it so can you, and so can I. This I believe. **end**

1958 AFRICAN VIOLET WINNERS

Daisy Jones, Memphis, Tennessee

The American African Violet Selections (AAVS) for the 1958 Tally have been compiled from many local clubs throughout the United States, all of which are Affiliated with the African Violet Society of America, Inc.

This is the sixth annual tally and it brings to light many new varieties that have been seen by visitors to shows, and gives the readers of the African Violet Magazine first-hand information as to just which varieties have been consistent top winners in 1958 shows.

Best in show award went to:

STRIKE-ME-PINK, a lovely deep, deep pink double blossom, and lush, shiny, semiscalloped, girl foliage.

BLUE NOCTURNE, a beautiful, medium blue, large, large double blossom, on very large, wavy foliage.

WHITE PRIDE, nicely tailored foliage, with lovely solid white double blossoms.

If you are already the proud possessor of even a little plant of the above three best in show winners, then you have occasion to be happy.

The National Gold Ribbon awards went to:

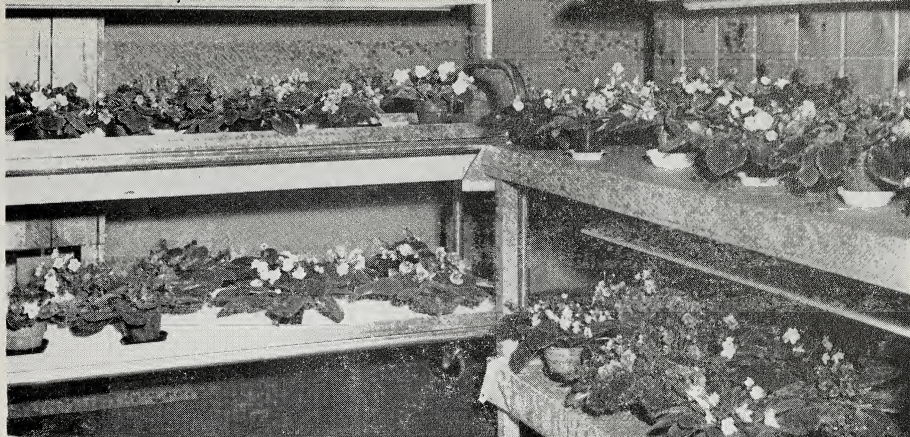
WHITE PRIDE
SANTA MARIA
T-V VALLINPINK

National Purple Ribbon awards went to:

BLUE PEAK
PINK ACHIEVEMENT
NAVY BOUQUET

If you will just check over the best in show and the National Gold and Purple award winners from all over the United States, you will see that they were all double African violet varieties, except the T-V pink! Now, isn't that some record for the doubles? To me it just proves that the DURABLE DOUBLES are tops! The only way the single bloom African violet can ever win my favor again is to change its way of living — the blossom life is such a brief day or so compared to days and days, and even weeks, of bloom life on the double varieties. Of course, the single violet varieties need some help from the scientists in the horticulture world. If they would just get busy and develop a liquid to be sprayed or watered on the violets that would make the blossoms stay on for weeks, that would be the answer. We, of course, know now that there is a chemical called Blossom Set for tomatoes and other vegetables, but it also makes the plant sterile, and perhaps it would not be a good idea to use this with our violets.

All of the Affiliated Clubs that participated in our 1958 Tally have our sincere thanks for their co-operation. **end**



Mrs. Casey's method of growing plants produces a quantity of blossoms.

HOW I GROW SHOW PLANTS

Five years ago I entered my first plants in our Rochester African Violet Show. To my amazement, I won two red ribbons. It was those two ribbons that gave me the incentive to grow better violets. I often think of the many pleasures that I would have missed if I had not won those two red ribbons.

I like to start in September to get my plants ready for a show in April or May. The greatest problem that I have is a mutual one with all African violet fanciers; that of space. The first thing that I must do is give away or discard some of my plants. Any plant that does not grow symmetrical and bloom well must go. There is no room in my collection for temperamental plants. I take two or three rows of leaves off my large plants and repot them. Now, I have more space and can go shopping.

In choosing my new plants, there are several things that I consider. One of the first being, is the plant registered? Most hybridizers register only their best plants. When I buy a plant, I want the best. The type of foliage is next in importance. Very ruffled and girl foliages are often difficult to grow symmetrically. These will often droop, hug the pot, or bunch. There are exceptions, of course. Three years ago I would not buy a plant with Supreme type foliage. The hybridizers have improved this type of plant tremendously. The Supreme of today is not difficult to grow, and it blooms well. I find that they make good show plants. They will stand in a warm show room for two days, without water or light, and will not wilt, as many other varieties do. Color, size and quantity of bloom are also very important to me in choosing a plant.

As soon as I get my plants home, they are repotted in my own soil. I use an organic mix

Mae Casey, Rochester, New York

and plastic pots. I find it much easier to work with my plants if they are all in the same soil, and in the same type of pot. I repot my plants often, and use very little fertilizer. I water from the bottom with warm water. Our basement becomes quite cool at night, so I turn my fluorescent lights on at night. This keeps the temperature from dropping too much.

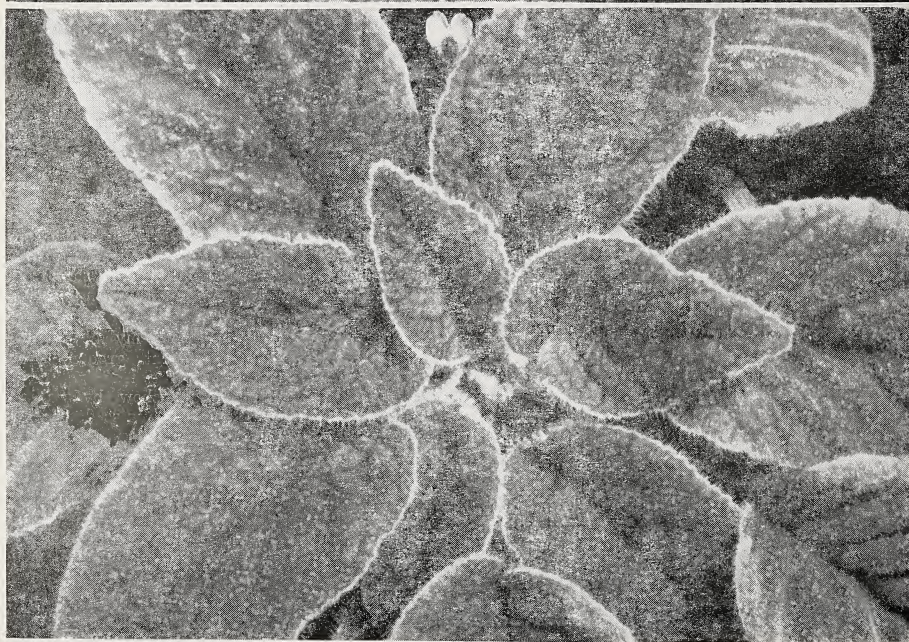
Before Christmas all my plants are potted in the size pot in which they will travel to the show. At this time I remove all the suckers and marred leaves. If the symmetry of the foliage is not perfect, I stake the leaves. Then the foliage is washed with warm water. This I repeat as often as possible.

From now on, good light and tender, loving care are most important. About twelve weeks before the show, I remove all the blossoms and pray that they will be in good bloom for the show.

Once a month I check all my plants for suckers. I try to have my plants groomed well in advance of show time. If a leaf is broken three or four weeks before a show, by staking the foliage the leaf will never be missed. If that same leaf was broken in removing a sucker a day or two before the show, it could not be repaired. It has always been my intention to have plenty of time to pack my plants. I have never accomplished this. I find myself up most of the night packing my plants.

Growing a plant into a show plant has been a challenge to me. The awards that I have received have given me great pleasure and satisfaction. I also grow many plants to be given away. I derive as much pleasure from giving a lovely African violet as from winning an award.

end



Petrocosmea Kerrii

PETROCOSMEA KERRII

Emily (Em.) Hunt, 648 Fourth Ave., Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada

Virtually unknown to African violet collectors is this attractive gesneriad which resembles the African violet rather closely in both blossom and habit of growth. Its natural environment is the evergreen jungle of Siam. Now in limited commercial cultivation and in a number of private collections in this country, it promises to be of considerable interest to African violet enthusiasts and hybridizers because of its white and yellow flowers.

Petrocosmea Kerrii has the reputation of being a difficult plant to successfully grow to flowering maturity. The frequency of bloom is judged sparse. No chromosome count has been published and may not, as yet, have been made; neither has the breeding behavior been reported.

Around twenty other known species belonging to the genus *Petrocosmea* have been found in Burma, the mountains of China and Assam, India. Of these, *P. Parryorum* and *P. Kerrii* are apparently the only two which have been recorded as cultivated in the United States.¹

After a short article, which I wrote, was published in the September issue of our Canadian African violet magazine "Chatter," I received quite a number of letters, mostly from the United States, making inquiries on how I was able to get this species to bloom. So I have decided that, in this article, if I give my experiences for the past three years in regards to the cultivation of this plant, it would cover a larger geographical area and would eliminate the necessity of personally answering these letters.

First of all, the little plant Mrs. Frazer asked me to rescue was certainly getting nowhere in the soil in which it was growing. So it was removed and was placed in vermiculite until some of the leaves were large enough to propagate. From these cuttings, I grew twelve little plants; all in pots of different soil formulas. Through this procedure, I found that the new little plants grew best in pure black humus with one-third Sponge-Rok; at this time I also found that they did best when the soil was saturated with water. In fact, leaving water in the bottom of the saucer makes them quite happy — whereas, a *Saintpaulia* with such treatment would soon be doomed.

Each plant was watered with a weak solution of a different plant fertilizer. Through this procedure it was found that the best response was obtained with Atlas Fish Emulsion Fertilizer.

When I thought they were large enough to bloom, I started giving ONE plant superphosphate 20% (one teaspoon to one quart of warm

water) once a month, besides alternate feeding of Fish Emulsion. Later, this plant showed bud clusters had formed at the base of the leaf — but there was no progress — "it continued to sit there." Then one blossom opened, still at the base of the leaf, and as this species is excessively hairy, the flower was unable to open fully. I increased the application of superphosphate to once a week. Then the scape, or stem started to grow, from then on the blossoms were able to open fully: the first scape bearing five blossoms; the blooms do not drop off, but dry up on the plant; they are very small, compared to the size of our present day *Saintpaulia* blossoms. *P. Kerrii* does very well in vermiculite providing it is fed regularly and kept moist at all times.

In describing the blossoms of *Petrocosmea Kerrii*, the two upper lobes (or petals) are blotched with yellow, some blooms have more yellow than others, the three lower petals are white. The two anthers are dart-shaped and protrude JUST SLIGHTLY from the blossom. The style emerges from the center of the flower (unlike *Saintpaulia*, which emerges to the side), and is curved almost hook-shaped. The stigma is VERY small.

I have two *Saintpaulia* seedlings (white), each with a seed pod pollinated by *P. Kerrii*, but to date, have not been able to cross *P. Kerrii* with a *Saintpaulia*. Also I have grafted four *P. Kerrii* leaves with four leaves of a white *Saintpaulia* seedling. This was done on November 23rd. One *P. Kerrii* leaf dried up, but the other three sets of grafts are still lovely and green, which is promising and exciting as well.

For young plants I use a utility stand on wheels; it has two shelves. The sides are covered with plastic, and I have a 60 watt incandescent light on the inside. When the little plants are transplanted into soil, they are placed in the lower section of the utility stand, with the pots sitting in one-eighth of an inch ($\frac{1}{8}$ inch) of water — at all times! Here it is warm, humid, and moist; they respond beautifully to this treatment and remain there until they are large enough to repot. I am still not satisfied with present results, so I am continuing my experiments, for I would like to see more blooms open at one time; well above the foliage, and I am sure that this can be accomplished if we can find this plant's proper cultural requirements.

I wish to thank Mr. H. G. Hamilton of the Parks Commission Gardening School and Botany Class for so kindly taking the pictures for me, and Mr. Floyd L. Johnson for his great interest in my experiences with *P. Kerrii*. I hope this article will help a great many of the readers whose letters I received and that it also will generate an advancing interest in this challenging plant among the members of the African Violet Society. Good growing to you all. end

1. Dr. Harold E. Moore, Jr., *African Violets, Gloxinias and Their Relatives*. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1957, (pages 156-157)

GROWING AFRICAN VIOLETS IN CANADA

Helen Montgomery, Kansas City, Missouri

The following short articles are from friends and growers in different parts of Canada:

Downsview, Ontario

We find growing African violets a wonderful hobby and we meet so many African violet enthusiasts. We started growing these beautiful plants three years ago. In Canada, people are getting much more interested in the African violet, and we are doing our share in Downsview. We grow and sell good single crown plants. We find the foliage is wonderful under fluorescent lights. We have the wonderful book of Helen Van Pelt Wilson's, "1001 African Violets Questions Answered by Twelve Experts." We read all about your miniatures and could hardly wait to start growing them. We are members of the African Violet Society.

Yours sincerely,
E. A. FISHER

North Vancouver, British Columbia

I just started last August with African violets as a hobby. I set my leaves in equal amounts of earth and vermiculite. When they have rooted I put them in two and one-quarter inch pots in African violet soil. I put at least one-half inch of earth aid in the bottom of the pot. I water from the top, and I keep fluorescent lights on sixteen hours a day. I fertilize every other week. I have about five hundred plants and at least one hundred of them are miniatures.

Yours sincerely,
KATHLEEN HENDERSON

West Vancouver, British Columbia

I have been out to my greenhouse this morning to try and pick out my favorites. The greenhouse is a mass of solid color, with so many new plants making their debut each day. I guess they are all my favorites. (How does one ever write a short story on violets? It seems I could write pages and pages.) Last fall I lost about two hundred and fifty of my largest plants with mite. We cannot buy sodium selenate in Canada. However, a friend got some for me in eastern Canada. I did save all of my young plants. Originally I had five hundred plants. With my increased feeding program, my fall and winter babies are now in two and one-half and three inch pots and are quite large.

Sincerely,
EDNA VAN SNELLENBURG

St. Catharines, Ontario

My violets are growing in coarse vermiculite in square plastic pots on bare metal trays. The trays are on racks two tiers high, the racks being made of two-by-twos. The ones in the basement are away from the windows and have fluorescent lights. I use Hyponex each time the plants are

watered except in very hot weather. I use three inch pots almost exclusively, planting one variety to a pot, with from one to six leaves, depending on the size. First, of course, the leaf is planted and only watering needs to be done until the plantlets are about an inch high. Then they are divided and replanted three or four to a pot. Using vermiculite, I find I can transplant at any time without interfering with the growth of the plants.

The violets are watered when necessary. My husband converted a three gallon pressure sprayer to use in watering plants. Each plant is watered individually, any excess water running into the tray. The temperature is approximately seventy-two degrees in the violet room. In the basement, in winter, it varies from fifty-eight to sixty-eight degrees.

I ship violets to all parts of Canada. I also sell plants each Saturday at St. Catharines Market when the weather is warm enough.

There are possibly five thousand plants in our house which I care for, with any help I can get from my husband. After many experiments over sixteen years, I believe we have a satisfactory method, but will still try anything that will be an improvement.

My favorites are Strike-Me-Pink, Vallinpink, Blue Nocturne, Royal Lace, Fascination, Minneapolis, Lorna Doone, Blue Buttercup, Chartreuse Lace, Calumet Beacon and T-V Cut Velvet.

Sincerely,
NELLIE WALKER

Westholme, V. I., British Columbia

I am too much of an amateur to contribute anything worth-while. One of my daughters gave me both Helen Van Pelt Wilson's book and Montague Free's book. I also follow the kind advice of that great Canadian enthusiast, Nancy Lamont, of Chemainus, British Columbia.

In sizing up new varieties of African violets, I do feel that more emphasis should be placed on those that have strong stems, hold their flowers up well and are persistent bloomers.

With very best wishes.

Yours sincerely,
FORDHAM SOLLY

Regina, Saskatchewan

For my method of propagating, leaves are placed in equal parts of peat moss and vermiculite. The small plants are taken from these when they are two inches high and are planted in my soil mixture: three parts garden soil, two parts sand or vermiculite, one part peat moss. To each gallon of this mixture, add three cups of manure,

one cup of superphosphate, and two cups of crushed charcoal.

My violets are grown under fluorescent lights in the basement. In an oil heated home, I find we lack enough humidity. I have recently acquired a humidifier and hope for a vast improvement.

A few of my favorites are: Pink Ideal, Double Pansy, Snow Prince, Mentor Boy, Rosa, Double Beauty and Ecstasy.

Sincerely,
MARGARET DEMPSEY

Truro, Nova Scotia

I have been growing plants of one kind or another too long to mention and I consider myself an authority, at least on roses — I haven't lost a rose bush through winter kill for at least twenty years, which is unheard of in this country. I am sure it is the way my plants are fed.

I think books say that "Supremes" are not good bloomers. I disagree with vengeance. The plants from the leaves you sent are covered with bloom and huge blossoms. My mixture: I sieve peat moss through a one-fourth inch screen, use two parts of the moss to one part of well washed beach sand. To this I add double the amount of earth (this is my compost after a year, made from leaves with liberal doses of ordinary chemical fertilizer; after sieving it is treated with Aldrin and plenty of it); one-twelfth part of sheep manure and approximately one-twenty-fourth part of superphosphate. In my estimation, superphosphate is the absolute necessity for bloom. I should add that the soil analysis around here shows a definite lack of phosphates; it might vary in other parts of the world.

I get the most wonderful thrill from my violets, and keep about one thousand plants. I sell them to a florist, trade a few, and give many away to my friends.

Sincerely,
DR. RALPH M. LANGILLE

Chemainus, British Columbia

I have many visitors in to see my collection of African violets. So many Ohs! and Ahs! and

SPECIAL FOR YOU!

Fresh cut leaves of choice new varieties from New York State and U.S. Dept. of Agriculture inspected. Healthy, organically grown plants. Postpaid by first class mail. Leaf list for dime, credit on order. May we suggest? Magic Starter for rooting leaves, 50¢. Organic Plant Food to mix in soil, 25¢ lb. Organic Potting Soil eliminates feeding, 4 lbs. for \$1.00 or 10 lbs. for \$2.00. Postage extra on materials, please.

We do NOT ship plants.

SCHMELLING'S AFRICAN VIOLETS

Peck Hill Rd., RD 1 Jamesville, N. Y.

compliments, yet I am never pleased with all my plants. It seems, with all my company, I haven't enough time to keep each plant exactly as I would like.

Best wishes,
NANCY LAMONT

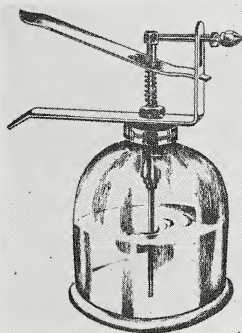
East Kildonan, Winnipeg, Manitoba

I start by cutting a good healthy leaf on a slant with a razor blade. I root it in water until a good root system has formed, then plant it in a good soil mixture in a small clay pot. My soil mixture: black earth, loam, vermiculite, sand, and number two chicken grits. (The latter keeps the soil from packing).

I grow my plants under fluorescent lights and also natural light. For feeding, I use Hyponex and Vitamin B-1. I feed every three weeks, alternating with the two. I water both from the top and the bottom.

My favorite variety is Double Pink Beute (Naomi Weeks).

Yours sincerely,
LOUISE CRUMP end



NEW LIGHT WEIGHT WATER-FOG VIOLET SPRAYER

Light as a feather! New plastic sprayer weighs less than half a pound. Easy one-hand operation. Will not tire you. Soft squeeze of handle sprays clouds of fine water-fog mist. Moistens leaves of African Violets, Gardenias, all garden and house plants. Promotes bloom and growth. New colorful translucent polyethylene container is non-corrosive and unbreakable. Heavy duty nickel plated brass parts in positive action pump. Precision built for long uninterrupted service. Manufacturer will repair or replace with 1-day service, if ever needed. Sprays water-fog, insecticides, fungicides, moth spray, all garden and household sprays. Half-pint size \$4.95; Pint \$5.45; Quart \$5.95 postpaid.

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Mrs. Arndt is pictured in the greenhouse inspecting plants.

SAINTPAULIAS ON THE WEST COAST

Grace Arndt, Troutdale, Oregon

A fever of excitement is causing much activity among the collectors of Saintpaulias along the Pacific Coast as word of "Convention, San Francisco, 1962" is passed along. Everyone who is proud of his plants is selecting and grooming for that much awaited event, "Convention on the West Coast." But what are the hybridists doing that is causing such a fuss? We have been visiting and selecting some very outstanding new varieties, as well as noting some future attractions from such persistent and gifted originators as Lois and Everett Hammond, Sophia Baker, Pearl Thomas, and Hazel Botsford. Each of these people is perfecting a strain of plants for a purpose. There are others working with seedlings, but we have not seen a definite strain develop so far, just an occasional good seedling.

The Hammonds really got started when they originated JUNE BRIDE. The foliage was outstanding and the blossom had green in the tips of the frills. The plant is a heavy bloomer and is of medium size. Using this variety as a parent, a strain of green-edged violets with extremely beautiful foliage was developed. Most outstanding of these were KATHLEEN, IRISH LACE, and the adorable miniature, LITTLE MO. Then DOUBLE JUNE BRIDE with even more green showing, and an exceedingly large head of bloom as well, began to show up the real possibilities of this strain. Choosing Mrs. Vallin's green-edged pinks, and using some of their own fine pink doubles, a thrilling seedling emerged. IRISH COLLEEN has flouncy skirts of minted green and a wee pink bonnet to shade her golden eye. Her fine silken gown looks like the Irish Sea with the sun aglintin' on it. This lovely double

green with pink shadings at the eye has flat, bronzy green scalloped foliage, and develops to just a nice size. She is so close to pure green that we can almost say for sure that her children will wear a GREEN gown to San Francisco.

Early in the spring, Mr. Hammond wrote us that he had a seedling that he was quite thrilled about. He had used his JUNE BRIDE strain, and, as the seedling grew and bloomed, it became a large plant of rippling, shiny bronze foliage and a heavy show of flowers, but oh, such flowers! Each blossom is a creamy white, frilly frill, shading to lemon yellow at the center, like a primrose. "We were not excited at first," said Lois, "but after the plant flowered a few times, and the yellow stayed in the blossom as it fell, we realized we were beginning to materialize a good yellow." So LEMON DROP will be available in very limited supply this spring.

Everett and Lois hybridize for fun and they sell seed of their crosses, just raising a few to see how the cross is developing, and to test germination. They offer two strains of seed — green-edged varieties, and pinks. Beginning with PORTLAND ROSE, when it originated on the Pacific Coast, they have developed a fine strain of pinks of all kinds. Newest is a huge single that looks just like a fresh cut ripe watermelon. It is a strong, even color with no veining, and blooms heavily. Since many of these pinks have carried the series prefix of "Desert," naturally this one is DESERT GLOW. We have grown most of the red-pinks, and this is the best we have seen. Interesting member of the Desert series is DESERT STAR, an orchid pink with

A little glimpse of a corner of the Hammonds fascinating greenhouse shows Lois Hammond surrounded by many kinds of beautiful plants.



a fuchsia star that propagates true and is always marked. From their pinks have come large, well marked flowers. Largest of these is a fine, clear pink on flat scalloped foliage, that equals Granger's THUNDERHEAD in size. This is HEADLINER. MAUREEN is a very beautiful new double pink that they have just released.

While green edges and pinks have been their specialty, other lovely seedlings have developed. We have been very enthusiastic about SIERRA PLUM, an intense deep and vivid red; this season has brought SIERRA CHERRY, a bright red-wine that blooms prolifically. PAINTED DESERT is a beauty of the Fantasy type, but the colors are in the magentas and rich purples of a desert sunset, and the foliage is almost black. Much has been said about pinks, but until one has grown MISS MICHELE to show size, he will never realize how fine a single pink can be. This plant is very vigorous, and a fast grower. The foliage is a shiny, plain green with a red reverse. The blooms are huge, a glowing medium pink shading to an unusual shade of bright old rose in the center, which makes one want to stand there and just look at it. Every time I pass MISS MICHELE, where she is blooming in our propagating house, I want to stop and dream awhile.

Each season, Lois has a charming miniature or two to present. Last season she offered

LITTLE MO, a gorgeous wine with a bright green edge, on flat growing, cut girl foliage; and the now famous EL MONITO, or little monkey, because its bluish orchid, tipped purple petals are shaped like a monkey's face. This spring she offers MOVITA, a charming double blue with wide white edge that is held on a strong stem, above flat, girl foliage; and TIDY TIPS, a dainty white miniature girl that has chartreuse tipped petals.

We cannot leave this beautiful collection of singular beauty without coming back to some of the green edges. Perhaps the most unusual pretty blue we found was KATHY JEAN. She has very black, shiny foliage, with wide waves in it. Her blossom is deep, smoky blue on the upper petals, and powder blue on the lower, all heavily fringed with grass green. Extremely exciting for those who like green and really want to see it, is GREEN FROTH, a new white with wide and vivid green frilled edges.

We visited Everett and Lois Hammond last fall and selected some very beautiful seedlings to introduce ourselves. Glancing up towards the shelf in their greenhouse, where the seedlings are rigidly tested, we thought we saw a butterfly poised on one of the pink blossoms. On closer inspection, we found it was a butterfly of vivid carmine pink, but it was attached to the

Everett Hammond and some of the new African violets that he has developed through hybridizing.





Sophia Baker and some of her fine African violets.

flower of a lovely lighter pink. All of the petals were heavily frilled. "Are you growing butterflies as well as violets?" I asked Everett, for this was truly the most fascinating Saintpaulia I had ever seen. He smiled and pointed to another, which was edged in bright green, on what looked like a big gob of whipped cream. It reminded us of America's exotic GREEN COMMA butterfly. Soon we found a soft lilac blossom edged in deep purple, and marked as we have seen lovely VIOLET TIPS, a vanessa butterfly we all know. There was a bloom of deep blue, like a BLUE SWALLOWTAIL flitting at dusk. And surely, there was RED ADMIRAL glowing as richly as a glass of burgundy wine in the candlelight. And BLUE AZURE Lois found among some of her most treasured seedlings. Our exotic butterflies, in lovely violet colors, were complete, and all because pretty PINK PAPILLION lofted her airy wings to intrigue us.

Because of the rich, green-edged varieties that abound in this collection, the green of Ireland best describes them, so many are receiving Irish names. MICHAEL O'SHEA is a fine Irish gentleman indeed, looking so grand in his velvet coat the color of Mother O'Grady's plum wine. To be sure, his gold lace ruffles are elegant indeed. A big man he is, with his shiny, waxed, bronze-green foliage. Any colleen will smile when she sees the many blossoms of unusual size that he has on every stem.

ENCHANTED we were with this very fringed, double pink ball of feathered fluff that might have been pink-tinted suds from milady's bubble bath. We had to talk fast for this one. It had been labeled "Hammond's Choice Pink" as a means of identification, and was to appear in their collection for this year. The foliage is bronze, flat and scalloped to a point, and the petioles show pink in strong light.

Because we were looking for very fringed whites, we selected FIRST SNOW right away. Lois had named this beautiful seedling, and considers it especially hers. The blooms are large

and many to the stem, all heavily fringed, of pure white. The foliage is wavy and very pointed, growing symmetrical in a vigorous manner. We were sentimentally pleased when Lois agreed to part with her treasure.

As we carried our precious cargo home with us on the plane, we dreamed of showing it to everyone at the next Convention. Detroit is very far away, and as we are so busy at Convention time, we have tried to describe them to you. We know that once you have grown these lovely varieties, you will agree with us that they are America's most beautiful African violets.

Sophia Baker has been playing with seedlings for many years. She likes big, husky plants, and her nymphaeizing has always had foliage in mind. Realizing a dream with CONSTANT BEAUTY and her CURLETTES, she is working to develop unusual leaf blades on finger-stiff petioles. BOLD WARRIOR, one of these sturdy seedlings, took our eye when we visited her last spring. The plant measured over twenty inches, with shiny, arrow-shaped, green leaves. There was quitting, just enough to show up the fresh waxed surface. Each leaf laid out like an African warrior's shield, with the tribe of blue-black Congo men boldly painted with white stripes dancing in the center.

We became very excited about MAGIC CARPET because the fuzzy leaves twisted together at the base and then laid out flat to ruffle just around the edges, showing wine underneath. The blooms measure over two and one-quarter inches and are a silvery, medium blue with a wide frilled edge. We have never seen such unique foliage, with its twisting and veining, yet holding a definite pattern.

JEWELED BEAUTY has foliage similar to CONSTANT BEAUTY, but in a soft, light lettuce green color. There is no dark green or wine in the sturdy, ruffled leaves — reminding us of the verdure around a lake. The lovely white blooms float above, like white birds, and the blue frilled edges reflect the sky in the water. The plant blooms heavily, and all the blooms are over two inches, showing well under artificial light.

More unusual foliage of the sturdy strain is BOLD PIRATE, a big, strapping, black-green leaf that is somewhat broader than a longifolia, yet showing the parentage. There is a ripple or two at the base, and then it lays out flat to the long blade tip. The blooms are camellia-shaped, a gaudy blue tipped purple-wine, reminding us that pirates wear gaudy hats.

We like them huge — massive — and with blooms bigger than you ever saw before. Don't you? Sophia topped them all when she unveiled GOVERNOR OF OREGON, a tremendous big, round, Supreme leaf, and a jet-purple frilled bloom of astonishing size. She crossed PAUL BUNYAN x RUFFLED QUEEN, and all the vigor of both parents combined in this gigantic offspring. Just wait until this plant matures and really gets going! It will take some doing

Many good varieties of African violets originated in the greenhouse where Mrs. Thomas is shown working with her plants.



to compete with it for the largest plant in any show.

It is difficult to select from Sophia's seedlings, as a plant must be grown to full maturity to bring out the vigor and beauty that she works to attain. Plants that fail along the way are discarded, even though very large. "Many are striving for bloom, or unusual color," she says, "but I believe that foliage is more important. If a plant has the right vigor, it will produce the bloom as well." We certainly will not argue the point, after growing two of her PINK AND GOLDS to maturity and watching them unfold their prolific and sizable blossoms. We only regret that the supply is so limited at present.

Pearl Thomas has many exciting new violets to offer, and we marveled at the wide variety of new color shadings she has perfected for her P.T. Series. WHIMSY, a semidouble, is a deep watermelon shade, and the large blossoms dance like a row of rough compacts reflected in a cosmetic counter mirror. BURMA RUBY is truly a deep ruby color and it holds just that tone until the single bloom has finished. The foliage is plain, a black green, and the plant will grow into a perfectly beautiful specimen. CROWN JEWEL is a lovely contrast of rosy orchid and glowing wine, in a large double blossom. The plant flowers profusely, above deep green, plain foliage.

We have been searching for a huge white, frilly double similar to Tonkadale's FASCINATION, and were delighted when we found just what we wanted in P.T. WUNDA. Here is a big, frilly bloom of purest white, on lovely shiny green, pointed and slightly waved foliage. If points were based on bloom alone, this plant would take the blue ribbon, because sturdy stalks hold tiers of fluffy white blooms like icing on a wedding cake, so the platter of leaves shows just the tips. Congratulations, Pearl, for the most beautiful white double Saintpaulias we have ever seen!

Of course she has some very cute miniatures, and we just love little DAWN. This tiny girl

grows to just about five inches, and she has long petioles so that she doesn't "bunch" like a cushion. Stiff flower stalks hold three or four powdery, light blue double blossoms each, and as there are many stalks blooming at once, we certainly saw California sky at dawn. Also there is a cunning single bloom on a similar plant that she calls MOONLIGHT MIST. It is white with a soft blue eye that is shaded into the petals in a symmetrical pattern. Pearl had these little darlings overpotted, we thought, as she grew them in two and one-half inch pots, yet they bloomed heavily. We just know that these are the easiest ever to make bloom.

Another favorite hobby of ours is collecting huge double varieties, and we were very happy to find two new ones in Pearl's collection. PACIFICA is a clear, pale sky blue, and ARCTICA is a pure white. To add to their attraction of extreme size for doubles as we now know them is the star-shaped petal formation, so we call them double stars. Discussing stars, we found a beauty in STAR-DUST, a beautiful white single that had an unusual eye of soft blue that was star-shaped instead of the usual round formation. The edge of the petals was outlined in heavy white, as if chalked, and the plant is a very heavy bloomer.

It is fun to watch Pearl flit around her greenhouse to show us her seedlings. She usually has several of each one growing because her seedlings have to pass muster for registration, for they carry the P.T. insignia, and if one isn't behaving properly, she usually remarks, "this one isn't going to be here long, it only propagates true from suckers." The word "sucker" insinuates all the disgust she feels for the erring one. It takes courage to throw away a pretty child when it doesn't come true. We wished many more seedlings received the same treatment.

We are proud to present these beautiful and thoroughly tested varieties from Edena Gardens, as Pearl and "E.H." call their nursery. end

FIGURE 1.



Condition in deep
WATER

FIGURE 2.



Wet Cotton to
COVER Stem End

FIGURE 3.



Wire + Cover stem with tape

FIGURE 4.
CHOOSE YOUR DESIGN



Circular



Crescent



Hogarth
Curve



Diamond



Triangular



Rectangular

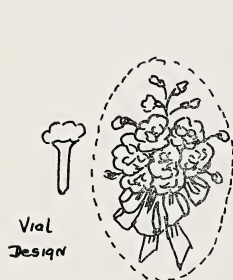


FIGURE 5.

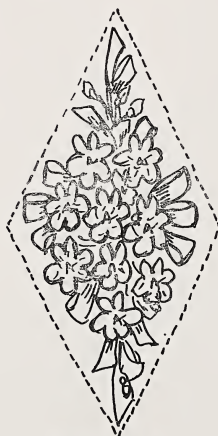


FIGURE 6.



FIGURE 7.



FIGURE 8.

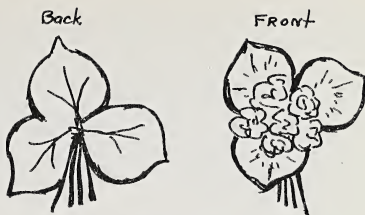


FIGURE 9.

VIOLET JEWELS

Dora Maud Aldridge, Rt. 3, Box 5465, Panama City, Florida

Have you ever tried to make a corsage from African violets? I can just imagine what your answer will be: "No, African violets are not suitable for corsages." But just think of how many grow these lovely violets and how they all must long to wear them to some special violet occasion such as the club meeting, convention, or a banquet. In my book, "Make Your Own Corsages," it was stressed to make corsages only from blossoms that would be durable enough to stand up for several hours. We know violets are fragile flowers and will wilt, or at least the stems will go limp, very easily. But just for fun let's try and see what we can do for a very special occasion.

Realizing their limitations as cut flowers, I would suggest using the largest double blossoms for they will not fall from their calyxes as easily as the singles. Plan your violet corsage to look like a Jewel. They are fine, dainty flowers and should be treated as such. They may be combined with sweetheart roses, babies' breath, orange blossoms, tuberous begonias or other such dainty, fine-textured flowers.

Remove the blossoms several hours before making the corsage and let them stand in deep water up to their necks but do not let their heads go under. Select the color that will be prettiest with the dress you plan to wear. Always remember, flowers show up best on dresses of solid color. If you plan to wear an outfit of figured material, then make your corsage for the hair, purse or to use as a wristlet. With an off-the-shoulder type evening gown, try a velvet ribbon choker with a spray of violets across the front of the ribbon.

It is best to plan your design before gathering your flowers and you will know how many you need to condition. Some of the designs that would be desirable are the circular, crescent, diamond, triangular, rectangular or Hogarth curve. (Figure 4)

There are two ways violets may be handled to enable them to last longer. You may arrange them in a tiny glass or plastic vial (which contains water or wet cotton) or each stem may be cut in one inch lengths and wrapped in moist cotton (Figure 2) and then covered with Floratape (before wiring). The finest wire, at least gauge 30, should be used to wire the stems. Since each stem will usually have several clusters of blooms, hook the wire lightly over a branch of blooms and bend both ends down parallel with the stem (Figure 3), then using the longer wire wrap around the other wire and violet stem that have been covered with the moist cotton and covered with Floratape. Prepare several clusters and a few stems with buds so they may be used higher in your planned design.

As you assemble the corsage, the stems will be parallel and the flower clusters will be bent into desired place in the design. All stems will be held in your hand until you arrange them in proper place (back view Figure 9); then the stems are tied with a fine wire and covered with Floratape. Use only a minimum amount of wire and tape to keep the corsage from being bungle-some.

After you have assembled the violets in the desired design, plan to use a narrow ribbon, number two, in a color that blends with the chosen blossoms. I like to use the same color value with

variations in tone, tint or shade, as in monochromatic color harmony or analogous harmony.

Keep in mind that you are making Jewels; do not use too much ribbon and let the loops extend just barely beyond the violet blossoms (Figures 5, 6 and 7). This dainty ribbon is used as a background to the corsage and should never predominate. It should emphasize the color, size and beauty of the flowers and improve the design.

When arranging the blooms in the glass vial, the tiny bow of ribbon may be tied over the vial and it will be less noticeable. The vial with pin attached is not very satisfactory for it will not hold a corsage tightly against its background. You may use the vial without pins and fasten it to your dress through the bowknot. There is a new type vial where a pin will go through the flexible plastic material. A circular or triangular design is most suitable for the vial corsage.

If you see that your violet flowers will be limp and need a background, try using dainty lace or net shaped as you desire. Violet blossoms may be sewed to net or lace with needle and thread if the stem is protected with Floratape. Do not let the extra material edging extend more than one-half inch beyond flower design. Lace paper backgrounds I do not use because I feel they cheapen the fine-textured violets. However, lace paper doilies are lovely to use for displaying African violet plants for show, or as nosegays for a coffee table, but never for personal adornment. Tiny tubular satin (covered wire)

or gold braid may be shaped in leaf design or made into small bow loops as a background for such dainty Jewels.

If a tailored design suits the occasion best, try just a round cluster of violets with three, small, girl, heart-shaped violet leaves, arranged as in Figure 9. To prepare the leaves, take three tiny wires flaired as in Figure 8. Tape wire to the back of the leaf with masking tape. The small wires will hang down for the stem and should be covered with Floratape. These leaves will be very fragile and great care should be taken when pinning them on.

When you are having a show, make one of these tiny Jewels for each of your judges, and I am sure they will be thrilled. Try pinning some on the gift packages you will deliver Christmas morning. As an afterthought, if you make them for the judges, do put them in a corsage bag on a sheet of wet cotton and suggest they wait until after they have finished judging before pinning on their corsages.

If corsage making happens to be a hobby of yours, write me and I will tell you about the fun we are having in the National Corsage Club.
end

JUNE MAGAZINE NOTICE

The June Magazine will be late as it will be mailed out with the Members' Handbook.

SUPPLIES FOR AFRICAN VIOLET GROWING

Insecticides, Soil, Plastic Labels, Pots, Etc.

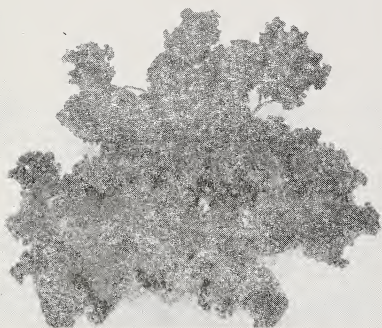
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A DOUBLE DISAPPOINTMENT

Bess Greeley, Chicago, Illinois

When a plant I was expecting from the West Coast arrived, and I opened the box, I was just sick. I knew a large plant was coming, but all that remained on the plant were five small leaves at the heart of the crown. Seventeen leaves were broken off, and some were so badly damaged that they could not be put down.

I use the wicker type plastic boxes that small fruits come in, for starting leaves. These boxes are lined with aluminum foil filled with Golden Earth, and small holes are made for moisture to get through the foil. The babies came up so fast, I was surprised. I soon potted up some of the larger babies and gave them to friends.

I did not remove any of the soil from the main plant, as I was afraid that I would kill it after it had lost so many leaves. It finally started to hold, and another bloom stalk came up and bloomed. It was an unusual double. But, the mother plant did not look right to me, and I finally decided to take it out and put it in my own compost. When I saw the roots, I was ready to dump it, as it was full of nematodes. I had kept it away from my other plants, so was not afraid for them. I immediately wrote to those who had babies from the leaves of this plant, and told them to keep the plants away from their others as I had found nematodes in the

mother plant. In looking at all the babies, I found that they were infested too.

I remembered that on one of my visits to Rosa Peters, she had told me what she did with plants that she brought in to bring a new strain to her violets. So, I took the mother plant and cut off all the roots, and even the last row of leaves, then took a sharp knife and dug up the center of the plant about one-half inch, then dipped it in rain water and let it dry. Then I dipped it in Semesan solution (the can gives you full directions for plants and bulbs) and held it in the pan for about two minutes. Be careful to keep your hands out of the solution as it is poisonous. Then I let the plant form a callus, and when it was dry I placed it in a small aluminum pie plate filled with vermiculite that had been wetted down with B-1 water.

I watched the plant very closely, keeping it away from all plants, and after two weeks saw new roots were forming. If the roots form in less time than that, all of the nematodes have not been killed, and it is necessary to remove more of the stalk and start the treatment again. When the roots were about one inch long, and it seemed that this method had entirely killed the nematodes, I took a leaf from the main plant and rooted it. I kept on watching carefully, but to date have not seen one sign of a nematode.

This may be a long process, but Semesan will kill the nematodes. Be certain to keep the can in a safe place, as it is a poison.

I could have thrown away the plant and leaves, but I like to see if a cure is possible, and succeed in making it. end

REPORT ON NU-BUD

Lucile Kile, Knoxville, Tennessee

In June, I was given a bottle of NU-BUD African Violet Blossomer and asked to compare it with the plant food I was using at that time, which I had thought was the best on the market.

All the young plants I had then had already been fed, so, in order to be absolutely fair, I waited until I potted up some more before starting my big experiment.

On June 30th, I potted up a group of young plants, from which I selected twenty pairs of plants of the same size and variety. These were numbered so that they could be compared later. One plant of each pair has been fed a well-known plant food every two weeks since July 4th. Its twin was given NU-BUD on the same days until it started to bloom, when, according to directions, a change should be made to a regular plant food.

The plants that were given NU-BUD made more buds and came into bloom much earlier

than those fed the other food. The first bloom opened in less than five weeks from the time the plants were potted up, and now, on September 15th, two and one-half months from the time they were potted, I have blooms on sixteen of the twenty plants that received the NU-BUD, and only on ten of the plants that were given the other food.

The NU-BUD plants are not as large as the others, but have grown at a regular rate and are nice flat, symmetrical plants with good color foliage.

The plants which were given the other food have good color foliage too, but the growth has not been as regular, resulting in plants that have short stemmed center leaves and long stemmed outer leaves that either hang down around the pot or stick up at an awkward angle.

All the plants used in the experiment were planted in the same soil mixture, that contained no fertilizer, and were kept under the same light fixture, thus assuring that they received the same light, temperature and humidity. The difference in growth and blooming can be due only to the difference in plant food. end

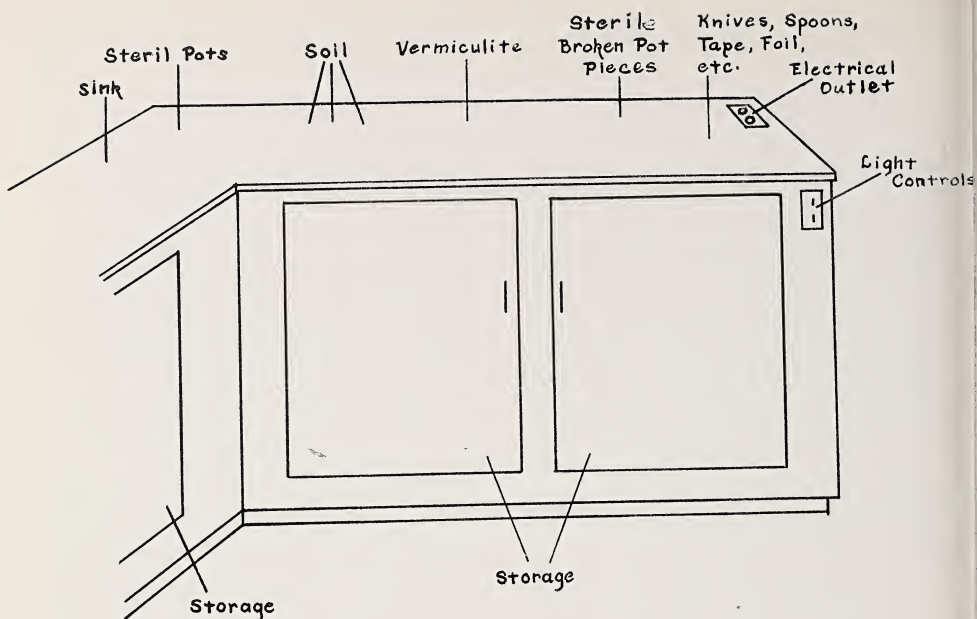
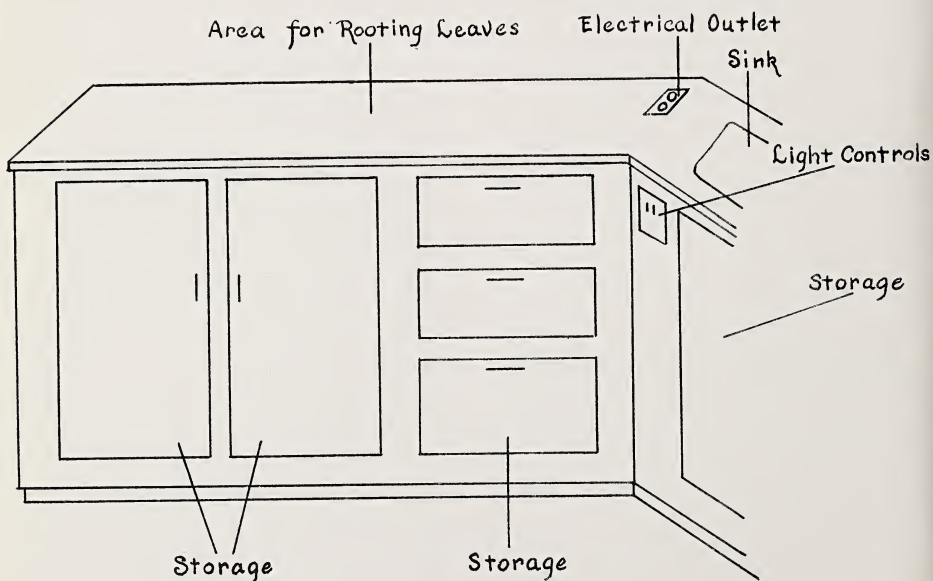


Diagram of potting room benches in Mrs. Buckner's basement plant room illustrates the ease and convenience a well planned work area provides. Story top next page.



THE CONVENIENCE OF A SPECIAL POTTING SPACE

Marjorie P. Buckner, Pleasant Hill, Missouri

The potting room adjoining my violet room, in the basement of our home, was converted from an unused dark room. It is seven feet eight inches by nine feet. The walls are painted aqua and the ceiling white, as are the walls and ceiling of the violet room. The concrete floor is covered with linoleum, the built-in cabinets are painted gray, and the room is ventilated by means of a duct from our forced-air furnace, which furnishes warmth in the winter and fresh air in the summer.

The cabinets are on three sides of the room and are thirty-three inches high. The top surfaces of these cabinets furnish plenty of working space, and the shelves and drawers below are excellent for storage of extra soil, vermiculite, trays, plant foods, insecticides, etc. The sterilized pots are kept on top, for easy access while potting.

On one side of the room is the double sink with swiveling combination faucet, which will swing aside to allow the placing of a bucket in the sink and then back into place to fill the bucket with warm water for watering the violets.

On the top of the cabinets on another side of the room, over which hangs a two-tube, forty-

eight inch fluorescent light fixture, are pans of vermiculite containing the many African violet leaves from which will start my new plants.

On the remaining side of the room is the actual potting area, with its supply of clean pots, a plastic sack of my favorite soil, another of vermiculite, usually one or two kinds of soil for experimental purposes, a tray of small, sterilized pieces of broken pot for placing over the hole in the bottom of fresh pots, and an assortment of accessories for use in potting.

I find my potting room most convenient, as everything is always in place for quick use when a violet needs attention, and no pulling out of pots, soil and utensils from hidden places is required. Perhaps you, too, have a corner in your violet room which could easily be adapted for a special potting space. An old discarded kitchen cabinet could be set up for storage space, using the level top for a potting surface. And, do have someone run a water line to within easy reach, for this is a tremendous timesaver. You will find that having everything ready will help you to give your African violets the attention they need at the proper time. end

EFFECT OF SUMMER HEAT ON AFRICAN VIOLETS

Mrs. George F. Pendleton, Kansas City, Missouri

With the approach of a midwestern summer, with its hot sultry days and searing heat, the African violet takes on a new and different appearance. It usually loses its wide open, healthy, symmetrical look and becomes bunched with a tight and crowded center. Stems grow much shorter, which of course, is the reason for the leaves lapping over one another, seeming unable to find room to grow normally as they press against each other and cause misshapen foliage. This occurs especially in the plants with girl type foliage.

It is now late July and we have had an unusually cool summer. In fact it has been cold much of the time, with not more than four or five days of normal summer heat. Very little bunching has occurred so far. Ordinarily by this time of year one almost needs a magnifying glass to see the center of some of the plants. So it goes without saying that summer heat is primarily the culprit.

I find that basement plants with overhead fluorescent lights are prone to be affected more by bunching than those growing in upstairs

rooms. The all around light seems to hold them open better.

With the approach of autumn and cool weather the plants will again begin to grow naturally. However, the leaves that have grown abnormally during the summer, with too much crowding, will never again straighten out. This ruins a plant for show purposes.

Some varieties seem less able to withstand summer's onslaught. Do not try to carry the larger plants of these varieties through the summer. Instead, see to it that you have started young plants, as they are not affected by the heat.

The bunching that I have mentioned does not apply to the long-stemmed, upright, crowded growth that so many enthusiasts complain about the year around. Ordinarily that condition is caused by inadequate light and is not to be confused with the bunching described in this article.

As far as I know, there is little we can do other than keep our violets as cool as possible and be sure they are given sufficient light, always hoping and praying for a mild summer. end

THE CULTURE OF SAINTPAULIAS AT AALSMEER

R. de Haan, Aalsmeer, Netherlands

Since 1950, the cultivation of these plants has very much increased and at present more than one hundred thousand plants are offered for sale every year. We have the bulk of the supply from May to September.

For early flowering, Saintpaulias are sown in October or November, pricked out in December, and cultivated during the winter months with extra light so that nice plants can be potted up in March or April in four inch pots.

In heated greenhouses the pots are put in peat and shifted up a few times till a sufficient number of flowers are produced and the first plants can be marketed. If the plants are well formed, they are pleasant for rooms. When they are treated in the right way, they will flower throughout the year.

Saintpaulias are cultivated by some growers for seed production. The best plants are selected and placed on saucers high upon shelves in the hothouse. By means of artificial pollination, seeds are obtained, which will mature in nine months. Apart from seeds, young plants are offered for sale and in the spring months thousands of these young plants are sold to foreign countries all over Europe.

The Netherlands Floriculture Society at The Hague displayed a large exhibit of Saintpaulias at the famous Chelsea Flower Show in London this year. end

YOU, TOO, CAN GROW PRIZE-WINNING AFRICAN VIOLETS

For two years the prize-winning blossoms at the National African Violet Show have been grown with Plant Marvel . . . the scientifically balanced 100% water-soluble plant food. It supplies the entire root system with the natural, concentrated food elements needed for rapid, healthy growth and bloom. Very easy and economical to use . . . a 35¢ package makes 68 quarts, 75¢ package makes 125 gals., \$1.25 package makes 250 gals. of rich liquid food.

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WHAT DID I DO WRONG?

Mrs. Walter Volwiler, 532 Carrier, N.E.
Grand Rapids, Michigan

The first trouble I ever had with my African violets, after eight years spent in acquiring a lovely collection of choice varieties, was discovered one morning when I noticed that several of them were drooping and the luster was gone from their leaves. I at once searched through my violet magazines and found that from all indications it could be none other than dry root and crown rot.

I could not see how such a thing could be possible as I am so careful about watering. I test the top of every pot with my finger tips to feel if the soil is dry. Then I water from the top with about one-third cup of warm rain water. I water in the mornings when the temperature is the best. It is about ten degrees cooler in our house at night. I fertilize once a month and make certain that the soil feels damp to the touch before fertilizing. Our Humidi-Guide is kept at fifty to seventy percent daily by the aid of a steaming kettle of water simmering on a low burner. Our house has many large, wide windows in every room, with plenty of fresh air, but I never allow a draft on my plants. I buy good, loose soil and use Fermate on cut surfaces of plants. My grown plants are mostly in three inch pots, some of them clay and some plastic.

As I took each plant from its pot and found the roots and crowns completely brown and dried up, I knew I could save six very tiny hearts and maybe a few leaves. All the rest I burned; I threw out all the soil they were planted in and I sterilized everything. I planted the violet hearts in vermiculite in two inch pots and covered them with a plastic bag (I use the bags that cover my clothes when the cleaner brings them back). I planted the leaves the same way, in individual two inch pots.

Then I watched and waited for the first tiny green leaves to appear. My violet magazine was such a help to me. I never could have gotten started again without it.

After about seven or eight months, I have plants blooming all over the house again. The babies are still in two inch pots, but in soil now, and full of bloom. The little hearts I saved are fourteen inches across, and are healthy looking plants in full bloom. But I will always be wondering what is going on inside their pots, unless maybe someone can help me by reading my story. What did I do wrong?

And now, as I look at my lovely babies sitting on my glass window shelves, I know that God must have had more to do with it than I. For only He could create a violet plant so lovely, and so loved, by so many.

I am hoping I will have a word from someone telling me how to prevent dry root and crown rot, and what to do for it. end

HOW DO YOUR VIOLETS GROW?

Dorothy Brackin, Owensboro, Kentucky

How do your violets grow? Mine grow Nature's Way, thanks to Mrs. Marie Dannemiller and a very good friend of mine, Pat Hancock, in Cincinnati. If it were not for these two nice people I still would be struggling along with every soil mix that came my way. Oh, I was satisfied, I thought I was getting about as much bloom and as large plants as the next one, but that was because I didn't know any better.

It all began, I guess, with the very first article Mrs. Dannemiller wrote in the magazine. I would read every line of every article she wrote but at the same time I felt she was sort of touched in the head. The peculiar thing about the whole thing was that I was ready to read anything on Nature's Way and was very interested, but just couldn't make up my mind to try it. Too much trouble, I thought. So many different materials were necessary to make it, and I didn't know where to buy any of them.

Then I met and began to correspond with Pat Hancock who, at that time, lived at Hamilton, Ohio. She told me about her plants that had so much bloom and such lovely foliage. I felt that she too was a little "tetched" but the letters kept coming and they were so very interesting. Then one day she wrote me about the different varieties she had with fifty and sixty blooms on them, and one she mentioned was my very favorite variety. Mine had only four or five blooms at a time. That did it. From that day forward I went all out for organics. It took me two days and one hundred miles driving to find the materials for the mix. I didn't make up a small amount for trial, as any sane person would have done, I made six tubs full! I used one of Mrs. Dannemiller's earlier formulas. Any plant that was anywhere near the repotting stage got repotted, even the babies went into the mix I knew absolutely nothing about. But, oh, in two months time what a transformation had taken place in my violet room.

This all took place in the early spring, and all summer my friends and I marveled at the amount of bloom on my plants. The violets didn't seem to know the hot weather had arrived. It never dawned on me that it was due to Nature's Way until the following summer. By that time I was so pleased with the organics, why shouldn't they take my plants through the hot months beautifully when they had done so much otherwise. My plants today are living proof of it.

In case anyone is interested, this is the formula I now use. (No, this is not the original. I have learned a great deal since the first formula, and as far as I am concerned this is tops.)

- 1 part rock phosphate
 - 1 part potash rock
 - $\frac{1}{2}$ part ground limestone
 - $\frac{1}{2}$ part bone meal
 - $\frac{1}{2}$ part cow manure
 - 1 part Vitaloam
 - 5 parts sand
 - 15 parts Michigan peat
 - 3 Fumisoil capsules
- (one to each tub of mix).

I use nothing but Ortho-Gro for fertilizer, and use plenty of rock phosphate in the bottom of each pot.

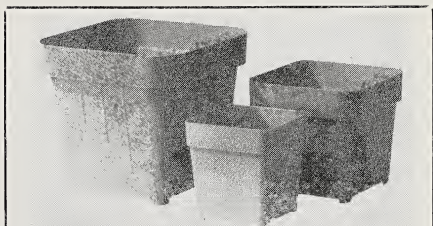
I, for one, would love so very much for Mrs. Dannemiller to be given a life membership in our Society. I have never met the nice lady, but I know she must be a lovely person, and she is so interested in our favorite house plant. She has been so helpful to me and to many others.

I hope others will become as firm organicul-turists as I have. Good growing organically to all of you. end

FERMATE FOR CROWN ROT

Fermate might be the answer to your problem if you are having trouble with crown rot, or are finding the petioles on your plants going soft. One part Fermate mixed with nine parts talcum powder makes a good dust for cut surfaces, and is good to use when lower leaves are removed from the main stem of the plant.

If you are having difficulty rooting leaves, try a Fermate dust, substituting Rootone for some of the talc. Dust the leaf stem and then tap off the excess powder before planting the leaf. end



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THE HOUSE PLANT CORNER
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FLUORESCENT LIGHT EXPERIENCE

Sophie Bullock, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

While in Rochester at the National African Violet Society Convention and listening to the various people telling how they grow their African violets under fluorescent lights, I realized that no one raises them the same way I do. I made up my mind then to write a little article as soon as possible so that others may share my experiences.

Let me say at the outset that this article is not by any means a scientific one as I am just one of those people who have fallen in love with the African violet and try in a very simple way to grow beautiful blooming plants. Also, let us clear up another thing — fluorescent lights are absolutely not the “cure-all” for African violets. If you have a northern exposure with unobstructed light or an eastern exposure with morning sun and then unobstructed light the rest of the day, you have an ideal place for blooming plants. If you are not successful with these locations, you most assuredly will not be with fluorescent lights because your lack of beautiful blooming plants is evidently not a light problem but something else. This, of course, has been told before but it is worth repeating, as some people like me are rather slow in learning.

My introduction to fluorescent lights began about six years ago before I ever knew there was an African Violet Society or an African Violet Magazine from which you can obtain such wonderful help. After coming up the hard way I finally managed to have every available window space filled with beautiful blooming plants, and I was confronted with that all familiar dilemma “no more room!”

Just at that time while in a quandary I read an article in a magazine about a man growing

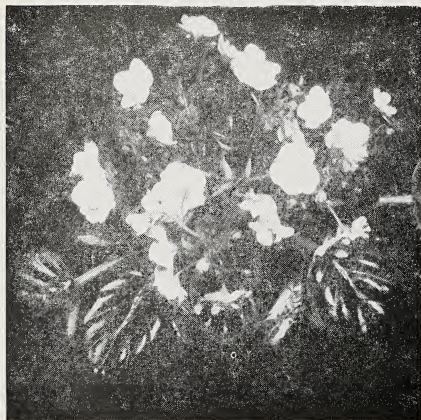
begonias under two forty-watt fluorescent bulbs. The idea struck me, and my husband (I have one who feels my wish is his command) rallied to my aid and brought home a light fixture and two forty-watt bulbs. No sooner said than done, he made me a frame, put a tray into it and filled it with vermiculite. He hooked the light fixture (industrial type with reflector) onto the frame with the bulbs eleven inches above the pots, and the lights were kept burning twelve hours daily. Here was the answer to my space problem, so I thought, but it didn't take long to find out that the plants did beautifully and another light fixture was brought in. Then three tier tables were made, and so it went on and on and things seemed to be going along so nicely and easily.

By this time I was getting quite daring and I suppose I wanted a challenge. Another idea came to me. If two bulbs could do so beautifully, why not try four bulbs? Very gently I approached my husband again, as he was now busy making tables and trays in every bit of his spare time, and he soon had an industrial fixture with a reflector and four bulbs put on the frame.

It was in January 1954, and whatever prompted me at that time I will never know, but of all things I started an African violet diary, not knowing that it would be so much fun and so profitable to read through later on. Let me jot down a few excerpts from it about lights:

January 1, 1954. I took the plants which had their first blooms from under the two forty-watt lights and put them under the four forty-watt lights at sixteen hours per day. I am anxious to know if this will speed up the second bloom.

White Pride



Christine



Mrs. Bullock's window sill of plants — show good bloom.



March 5. They surely bloom much earlier. The six plants that I put under the four forty-watt lights about two weeks ago and which had no signs of buds are now filled with buds and look like they will be in full bloom in another two weeks.

April 4. Took two small plants of same variety and the same size. Put one under two lights and one under four lights. Will watch the progress.

June 28. Small plants grow faster and more beautiful under two lights and bloom earlier, but large full grown plants put under four lights make more and larger blooms faster. (Photograph enclosed to prove this). Pink and white varieties are better off on the outside of the trays and are less susceptible to leaf burn.

December 1954. The full grown plants under four lights are far superior to the ones under two lights. Now I will try to let the four lights burn twenty-four hours per day, only over one tray, and see what will happen.

February 23, 1955. The plants under four lights burning twenty-four hours per day are doing beautifully and have much larger blooms than those where the light only burns sixteen to eighteen hours. Light certainly produces blooms. This is only an experiment so I shall discontinue the twenty-four hour schedule as I am afraid they will get a setback when I put them under normal time again and under normal home conditions. It was fun to try. I notice that Blue Moon with the smooth foliage does better also on the outside of the tray.

June 1955. Through the summer months I shorten the days to twelve hours and only have two forty-watt bulbs burning on trays to slow down growth.

September 1955. The plants look fine after the hot summer. I made the day sixteen hours long at the end of August and put on the extra light bulbs again. They are starting to bloom beautifully.

December 1955. Through a little research I am trying something new. Instead of the four daylight bulbs, I am using one red, one green and two daylight. The plants got straggly so

I put the fixture lower, then they burned, and the foliage was very brittle. Now I read an article by General Electric (I suppose one should read more before doing) that the red light pulls the plants up, the green does nothing, but blue makes them squatty; so I got a blue bulb, naturally.

March 29, 1956. The plants under daylight, red, green and blue bulbs are doing very nicely but no better than under four daylight.

September 1, 1956. Started to use two daylight and two warm white bulbs.

December 1956. Plants are doing very well under two daylight and two warm white bulbs so I will keep this going in the future.

May 1, 1957. Introduced using pink bulbs over pink and white plants, two forty-watt over small plants and two pink, one daylight and one warm white over full grown plants.

September 6, 1957. White and pink varieties are doing beautifully under the pink bulbs.

December 13, 1957. I still keep on with the same lights. The pink lights are doing wonders for the pink and white varieties. The foliage is beautiful and the pink blossoms are much more beautiful under the pink lights than under the all white lights. It just proves to me that it is impossible to get all the good of sunrays into one kind of fluorescent light bulb.

It is now May 1958 and I still keep on the same way; things are looking fine and the plants look beautiful. Now is the time to try something new. I wonder what it will be?

In closing let me say a big "Thank you" to the scientists who worked untiringly to put the sunrays into a little light bulb so that people like me could just hook it up, turn on a switch and get lovely African violets. To me this is like a miracle.

This does sum up the light story about my African violets. I have found that a plant grown under four fluorescent lights adjusts wonderfully to regular daylight, the foliage stays the same and the plant keeps on blooming when given the proper amount of light. end

ADVANTAGES OF USING "POKON" PLANT FOOD

Jennie Spoutz, Fraser, Michigan

We have used Pokon Plant Food exclusively in our greenhouses ever since we potted up our first African violet, which is the only crop we grow. We are convinced that Pokon is best, for it is immediately available and completely soluble, highly concentrated, a well-balanced complete plant food.

To understand why it is important to have a well-balanced fertilizer, we give the following example. Indoor plants generally live under unnatural circumstances and have a limited quantity of soil at their disposal. Pokon contains exactly what the average plant takes out of the soil, and it dissolves as completely as sugar, for it is impossible for plants to consume any solid particles. We have found that other fertilizers (we get lots of free samples each year) we have tried out do not dissolve and most of it will sink to the bottom of the watering can, which means that the first plant gets just a little fertilizer and the last plant will get all the undissolved fertilizer on its soil, where it will stay in heavily concentrated form with immediate harmful results.

Since Pokon is so highly concentrated, we find it exactly suited for the way we grow our violets. We use a light meter for measuring the sunlight in the summer: which runs about one thousand foot candles at noon during a sunny day. We find the violets will get quite pale in color though if it remains that sunny for a full week with no relief from cloudy skies. Since fertilizing is "my job" I promptly get out my nine quart pail and dissolve nine units (nine teaspoons) into that almost lukewarm temperature water. Pokon is used at one-third strength when the mouse-ear size leaves start coming up

on leaf cuttings; then it is used full strength on baby plants three weeks after they have been potted up individually; and is used full strength on mature plants. I use a three ounce baby syringe and squirt about one ounce of Pokon solution into each three inch clay pot, keeping it off the leaves naturally. Of course the soil is damp from the day before, for we do not allow the violets to get real dry at any time. The 16% nitrogen of Pokon goes to work quickly. In five days I can see the dark green coloring working up from the center of the plant, and in ten days the whole plant is one good dark shade of green. When using my free samples of other fertilizers, I found that action was so slow that the oldest leaves had to be cut off the plant. Pokon's 21% phosphorus completely dissolves at once and gets transported promptly to the tops of the plants in order to form buds. This high phosphorus analysis keeps the nitrogen producing lush floppy foliage.

We water all our violets with a hose, with a waterbreaker nozzle, FROM THE TOP. There is stony drainage under the clay pots. We apply Pokon from the top also, allowing the excess to drain out the bottom hole of the pot. I am not sure why, but we never have that white crusty salt-looking coating on our clay pots, which causes the foliage to rot away or forces you to use evil-looking adhesive tape and such things to prevent damage.

One thing I want to stress is that six to seven weeks after using Pokon for the first time we get a great many flower stalks, each one containing lots — and I do mean lots — of buds! Even poor bloomers respond generously. end

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I AM IN LOVE

Elizabeth Mitchell, Richmond, B. C., Canada

At my age I would never have thought it possible! It happened quite unexpectedly, as these affairs of the heart usually do.

This is how it came about. One day, nearly three years ago, my next door neighbor came in, carrying a small plant. Her remarks about its failure to bloom were far from complimentary. She said, "Here, you take the thing and see what you can do with it."

I had not the faintest notion of how an African violet, for that is what it turned out to be, should be treated. As I will try practically anything once, I started to nurse this poor little thing into a blooming plant. It must have liked the treatment it received, for in about six weeks tiny buds appeared! A short time later, this morsel of a plant was a mass of flowers!

I began to think how nice it would be if there were more small plants, in a variety of colors. So off I went to a commercial grower and bought two companions for my little Blue Boy, a pink one and a white one, which I know now are all very ordinary varieties.

My success with these little newcomers was equally good. I became interested in finding out all I could about these fascinating plants.

Some time previously I had been invited to join the British Columbia African Violet Club, so I became a member. That did it! When I began to see the variety of form and color, I was head over heels IN LOVE, and I guess I always will be.

I now have thirty-five blooming plants, and numberless babies. Now my taste is a bit more discriminating, but I am still more partial to the single varieties. I do have some very nice double ones.

I have been fortunate never to have had any pests or disease attack my collection, so do not feel qualified to offer any advice on these subjects.

I grow my plants in a south window. I have Venetian blinds, that I close only on the very warmest days of summer. They are kept down, with the slats in a horizontal position, so that the plants get plenty of light but no sun.

Most of my African violets stand on a table, made with a galvanized metal tray that is waterproof. In this tray are granite chips, and the pots stand on these. I pour HOT WATER in this tray, but never so much that it touches the pots. This gives the necessary humidity.

I water my plants only when they are very dry. I remove each plant from its regular place,

give it a thorough watering, and a thorough draining before replacing it. I think this really pays, as I have only had one or two plants show signs of crown rot. These were easily rerooted and are still flourishing.

I never use cold water or cold fertilizer on my plants. I always use water from the warm tap, this way chlorine is evaporated. I alternate three fertilizers, using a somewhat weaker solution than recommended by the manufacturers. The fertilizers I use are: Stim-U-Plant, Maxi-Crop and RX-15. Two of these are made in Canada; I do not know if they are available in the States.

I hover over my table several times a day, watching for spent flowers or drooping leaves, and I believe my plants respond to my watchfulness. I still have a bank of flowers; they have bloomed constantly since early March and show no sign of stopping; and more buds are forming constantly. Now do you wonder that I am in love?

Good luck to all your efforts in the growing of African violets. May you all derive as much pleasure from your hobby as I do! end

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See the next issue for announcements of further products.

ORIGIN OF THE STARS

Dr. S. C. Reed, St. Paul, Minnesota

A beautiful shower of stars has been falling over the African violet world for the last few years. The new stars represent even greater hybridizing skill than did the double pinks, and like them have enhanced the stature of the most successful of our house plants. The stars are most satisfying to the elite among those who enjoy plant appreciation. Some people do not notice any difference between Blue Boy and Star Sapphire. Anyone can tell the difference between pink and purple but to see the difference between the star shaped flower and the normal flower shape does take a more discriminating eye. The genuine flower lover does see and does enjoy this difference in shape and form of the flower.

How does the star shaped flower differ from the ordinary shaped flower possessed by all the native species of African violets? The star is most fundamentally different in that it is symmetrical while the wild type flower is asymmetrical. All African violets have only a single petal which is divided into five or more lobes. The stars have the petal divided symmetrically into lobes of equal size and shape. The conventional shaped flower has two smaller lobes at the top and three larger ones below. Each of the lobes of the star has an anther containing the pollen. Thus there are five (or sometimes six) bright yellow anthers in the center of the star which give it much of its elegance. The usual flower has only two anthers (or stamens) which arise in the area nearest the two lower side lobes. However, the conventional flower does have three abortive stamens present which are called "staminodes." These are very small and the flower must be removed from the stem if the staminodes are to be seen. They can be seen in the center of a large flower with the aid of a magnifying glass. The staminodes are suppressed stamens; occasionally an obstreperous

staminode will achieve full size and be noticed as a third anther. In the stars the suppressors of the staminodes have been suppressed themselves and all staminodes achieve the size and status of stamens. If the star has six lobes there will be six stamens.

The drawing shows a star with its five well-developed stamens and a normal flower with the lower lobe split apart along the middle in order to show the minute staminodes. They are colorless nubbins, probably suppressed during evolution thus permitting the two remaining functional anthers to be larger and to have more pollen available for cross-fertilization with other unrelated plants. Nature abhors self-fertilization and promotes cross-fertilization, with its resulting hybrid vigor.

Most growers have noticed that the ordinary type of single flowered plants produce every now and then a solitary star flower among the rest of the conventional shaped flowers on the plant. I have selfed some of these solitary star flowers and raised the offspring. None of them produced any star flowers; they gave only the usual shape. Such stars are what the geneticist calls "phenocopies." They indicate that a slight change in the physiology, that is, the environment, of the particular flower will give the same result as will the gene for star. The difference is that the gene for star will be inherited in subsequent generations and its reappearance can be predicted while the phenocopy star is not inherited. This observation provides a hint for hybridizers. If one flower out of many on a plant shows some peculiarity of form or color it is probably a phenocopy and it is unlikely that with a selfing of it any more of the new type will appear. On the other hand, if several or all of the flowers on a plant show a new variation it is probably a genetic mutation and can be maintained in subsequent generations.



Rough sketch illustrating the symmetry of the star type flower with five small stamens on the left. On the right the conventional shaped flower has had its lower lobe cut up the middle and pulled apart to show the three tiny staminodes on the inside of the flower. They are surrounded by the two regular sized stamens.

Careless Love. A new plum
colored star with longifolia
leaves produced by Lyndon
Lyon.



Students of flower evolution think that the most primitive flowers were symmetrical; the more recent specializations, such as only two fully developed anthers instead of five smaller ones, being an asymmetry beneficial to the reproduction of the species. With this generalization in mind, it seems reasonable to assume that millions of years ago the ancestors of the African violet had a symmetrical star shaped flower which had five rather small stamens. As time passed, one or more mutations appeared which suppressed three of them so that today they are merely staminodes. The star mutation which has made its appearance in our greenhouses thus reverses the efforts of natural selection in the distant past and permits the staminodes to resume their former status as stamens.

The first inheritable star to appear was a mutation of Blue Boy which appeared in the greenhouses of the Robert Craig Company of Norwood, Pennsylvania. It was noticed in May of 1948 and reproduced asexually there until April 1951 at which time a plant patent was applied for. The patent was approved in September of 1952 and plant patent number 1187 was issued on May 12, 1953. However, the plant, "Star Sapphire" had already been introduced to the public during the summer of 1951. "Star Amethyst," of a reddish violet color was a sport of "Star Sapphire" and was introduced to the public in 1952. I am most grateful to Janet Craig Dalsimer for this summary of the birth of two of the stars.

There is no practical way of enforcing the regulations of a patent for an African violet so that "Star Sapphire" soon spread throughout the country — seldom accompanied by a patent label. My first crosses were made without even having a "star" plant. Mrs. Baker and Mrs. Mason presented me with some "Star Sapphire" pollen on May 22, 1954. Lyndon Lyon started making star crosses in 1952. Neither of us knew that the other was working with stars until we introduced our products in late 1957. My stars were produced

in about half the time it took for the Lyon's stars to appear but because of their speedy origins they are not as desirable as his. The reason for this is mainly that my stars were either the second inbred generation (F_2) of the cross between "Star Sapphire" and some other variety, or immediate backcrosses of the hybrid to the "Star Sapphire" parent. My stars are thus genetically very close to Star Sapphire, which is really only a Blue Boy with the recessive mutation for star shaped flowers. The poor color and texture of the Blue Boy leaves are thus present to a considerable extent in my stars so that their leaves are their greatest weakness.

Lyndon Lyon, who has more extensive facilities and more patience than I have, was able to outcross much more widely and to raise more progeny. The introduction of excellent traits from other strains resulted in superb creations like "Star Pink (New)," which is close to being a perfect violet. Its only weakness is that its flower count is not high. Neither Lyndon nor I have yet introduced a recessive white star, that is, one with two genes for white which cannot revert to color. My new white "Star Plentiful" has better leaves than "Star of the North" but can likewise revert to partially red stars in its old age; in this case, as in many others, old age imparts a sparkle to the wearer.

Lyndon and Ruth Lyon are hot on the trail of new and better stars. They are permitting me to include their photo of one of the newest, with the titillating title of "Careless Love." It is a wine colored star with longifolia type leaves. The longifolia leaf is of interest to the violet veteran but has no significance for those who buy all their violets at Woolworth's. They have also produced a new star which they call "Racy Red." It has the new "Reddermess" or "Fuchsia" mutation which, of course, gives a much more brilliant and redder red than that of "Primitif."

This is the story of the origin, but not the end, of the stars. But it is the end of my story.
end

DO YOU FEEL THAT PLANTS ARE BENEFITED BY A DROP IN TEMPERATURE AT NIGHT AND IF SO, WHY?

Claude Gortatowsky, Atlanta, Georgia

Do you feel that plants are benefited by a drop in temperature at night? The answer to this question is obvious after a visit in the garden during the early morning hours. At that time the effect of a lower night's temperature lingers and the benefits to plants and flowers are apparent through the crisp, fresh, hardy, erect manner of plant foliage, and the delicate, fresh, colorful appearance of blossoms. When we speak of a drop in temperature, we, of course, mean to fifty or sixty degrees Fahrenheit.

Night temperatures affect the rate of growth, and some plants thrive at a night temperature of fifty degrees Fahrenheit; others at sixty or sixty-five degrees. Night temperatures also affect flowering. "During winter in a greenhouse, stocks flower when the night temperature is fifty degrees Fahrenheit but do not flower at sixty degrees. The Christmas cactus does not flower with a night temperature above seventy degrees, but flowers at a temperature of sixty-five or even down to fifty-five degrees." In the selection of house plants — "At a night temperature of fifty degrees, the cyclamen, carnation, schizanthus, freesia, pansy, and cineraria thrive but do poorly at sixty degrees Fahrenheit." If you have a greenhouse, the night temperature should be maintained at fifty degrees if you want to raise cool plants such as carnations, petunias, snapdragons, calendulas, sweet peas, violets, cyclamen and others. "A night temperature of sixty degrees suits African violets, cattleya orchids, fuchsias, gardenias, gloxinias," — and others.

"Temperature influences rate of food manufacture." It can be too low as well as too high.

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Food manufacture nearly ceases in tropical plants at forty degrees Fahrenheit. For most garden plants, food manufacture begins to slow down at eighty to eighty-five degrees Fahrenheit.

High temperatures during the day promote drying out of plants because the air becomes less humid with a rise in temperature. Aside from the drying out effect of warm and resulting drier air, plants like a fair degree of humidity; some a high degree. Dry day air often causes wilting, and the plants, through the means of cooler night temperatures and consequent higher humidity, do recover thusly.

Lower night temperature in itself is beneficial. Resulting higher humidity is also beneficial.

If an atmosphere has a temperature of sixty-eight degrees Fahrenheit and a relative humidity of fifty-five percent, and the temperature is lowered to fifty degrees Fahrenheit, the relative humidity increases to one hundred percent, or saturation, and dew forms. If an atmosphere at a temperature of eighty-six degrees Fahrenheit has a relative humidity of sixty-four percent, and the temperature is dropped to seventy-one and six-tenths degrees Fahrenheit, the relative humidity rises to one hundred percent, or saturation, and dew forms. For every twenty degree rise in temperature, the relative humidity is lowered fifty percent; or for fall in temperature of every twenty degrees Fahrenheit, the relative humidity is raised fifty percent.

end
Quotations and some other material are from the book, **THE SECRET OF THE GREEN THUMB**, by Henry T. Northen and Rebecca T. Northen. Copyright 1954, The Ronald Press Company.

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AFRICAN VIOLET PROPAGATION

Louis Rhodes, 319 Kent St., Metairie, Louisiana

PROPAGATION

There are many ways of growing and increasing African violets at home. These include: leaf cuttings, seeds, and plant divisions.

Leaf Cuttings: This is the easiest and fastest way to reproduce your African violets. Start with strong, healthy stock. Do not use leaves from the bottom of the plant for these leaves may be too old. Use a sharp knife or razor blade to cut the leaves off the parent plant. After the leaf is removed from the plant, insert the stalk of the leaf in vermiculite, sand, soil or water. In about eight to sixteen weeks, young plants will form at the base of the leaf stalk. Then the leaves will slowly grow into a plant. The young plant should bloom in about nine months if growing conditions are right.

Seeds: The second means of propagation listed above is seeds. African violet seeds are so fine they are like dust. Special care must be taken in the propagation of African violets by seed. The seeds of African violets can be grown in many different kinds of containers — instant coffee jars are excellent. The growing medium I recommend is Black Magic African Violet Soil. First, the jar should be laid on its side, then filled to the halfway level with the growing medium. The seeds are put in with a spoon and scattered evenly. The growing medium should then be dampened thoroughly, not soaked, but dampened; and then the top is put on the jar. The seeds will germinate in about two to three weeks. Now the jar lid should be removed to give the seedlings air. This method, however, takes longer than that of using leaves.

Plant Divisions: This is an easy way to reproduce your African violets. A multicrowned plant should be separated for several reasons. One: The plant is not healthy when it is so crowded that the leaves toward the center cannot breathe. Two: The plant is more attractive when it is single-crowned.

To separate, take a knife and work all the way around inside the pot to free the ball of soil from the pot. Invert the pot, tap the pot on the bottom and let the plant slide into your hands. Then separate each plant, and pot each one individually.

PESTS

Nematodes: These are tiny worms that cannot be seen without a microscope. These little worms attack the roots and cause swelling, and these swellings prevent the intake of fertilizers and water by the roots and cause rotting. To avoid this, sterilize the soil.

Mealy Bugs: These are small cotton-like sucking insects. They form clusters where the leaf goes into the stem or the stem into the plant. To control, take a toothpick covered with cotton dipped in alcohol and apply the cotton to the insects.

Aphids: These are small, sucking insects more commonly found on rosebuds. To control, use one teaspoon of nicotine, one tablespoonful of soap to one gallon of water, and spray the plants with the solution.

VIOLET CULTURE AT A GLANCE

Temperature: African violets like a temperature of about seventy to seventy-five degrees. If the temperature drops below fifty degrees, growth is checked.

Soil: African violets prefer a light, well-drained soil, one-third loam, one-third sand and one-third humus. This is a very good soil mixture for these plants.

Containers: African violets like the squatty type of clay pots. When the tall type is used, the soil below the roots tends to sour. African violets like to have their roots crowded, but in a squatty container.

Light: African violets must have nine hundred to one thousand foot candles of light to grow and bloom well. In summer, a western or southern location is best; in winter, a northern or eastern location.

Watering: When watering African violets, use only warm water. Cold water will spot the leaves even though it may not come in contact with them. Either top or bottom watering is satisfactory. However, when watering from the bottom, the mineral salts come to the top of the pot. So, when using bottom watering, give the plants a top watering about twice a month to wash the salts back into the soil. end

(Lewis Rhodes is fourteen years of age.—Editor)

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from varieties having "girl type" foliage —
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WHO SAID YOU CAN'T TEACH AN OLD DOG NEW TRICKS?

Leonard K. Brewer, Wyandotte, Michigan

After growing violets in my basement for many years, believe you me it is quite a challenge to again grow them in daylight. And especially on a sun porch with east-south-west exposures.

Early this fall I decided my "cool sun porch" had to go. I was running out of room in the basement (which had a lot to do with my decision), and every once in a while I would catch myself thinking how beautiful violets would be, blooming away on the sun porch, with zero temperatures outdoors. That made up my mind in a hurry!

So, out went my epiphyllums, my gorgeous camellias, and a few other plants collected down through the years. If you have ever seen the amazing epiphyllum blooms, you would know how difficult it is to part with them. And when I think back just one of the camellias having sixty blossoms at its peak — oh, well, they are all gone, but not forgotten.

Once I had cleared the debris away, I laid some asphalt tile on the concrete floor, made a bench, roughly ten feet long by two and one-half feet wide, had some waterproof metal trays made, and I was in business. I painted the interior a leaf green and the ceiling white. The back wall is brick. (My son wanted me to paint that white, and though not a bad idea, I figured I could always do it later if I wanted to.) I hung some shelves from the ceiling and painted them the same shade of green.

I had wondered about the heating problem. The gas company very kindly gave me approximate figures on the size unit it would require to heat a ten by seven room. They advised me against heating it from the furnace in our home. People have tried it, but it just does not work out as a general rule. So I purchased a small gas space heater and had it installed. Good thing I did not attempt it on my own. In the first place, I am not at all handy; and in the second place, an expert was really needed. They ran the gas line from our basement right through the wall of our porch. It was a very neat job. But when they vented it, the pipe came out right underneath our bedroom window. Even violets aren't worth the risk of asphyxiation! So, they had to put an elbow in the pipe and move it over several feet. The unit itself is compact and does not occupy much space. The gas company estimated it would cost me \$30.00 a season to heat the room at a minimum temperature of 65°. I will have to wait for a complete season to find out how close their estimate comes.

I filled the trays with yellow sand, watered it down, and before you could say "Saintpaulia," I was down into the basement and back with an armful of blooming violets. I placed them so carefully in the trays, making sure not even one

leaf touched. Oh, those were carefree days. Now they look just like anyone else's setup — just as jammed together as can be. After all, I need the room!

And quite accidentally I happened to read where orchids and African violets live happily together. Well, what other urging does an inveterate flower lover require? None. I have some very lovely orchids amid my violets, and you know, that article was correct. They do live happily together.

The first few weeks were the trying ones. My violets had never seen any daylight, let alone sun. And when those rays hit them, their tender leaves were burned to a golden brown. Out came the Bon-Ami (my mother's suggestion). I made a thick paste and covered the inside of the windows. Another week passed; it was clear that more Bon-Ami was needed. One more treatment did the trick. They immediately perked up and began setting buds. When the weather turned really cold, I lined the inside of the sun porch with sheets of polyethylene plastic. This prevented any freezing drafts from hitting the plants and it also filtered the bright winter sun.

And now that I have my sun porch in operation for several months, I have noticed some definite results:

1. My violets tend to grow larger than they do in the basement. They "open up" — and I am not referring to the flowers.
2. They bloom profusely and with much longer stems. I hasten to add they are not reaching for the light, since the three sides of the porch are all glass.
3. Higher temperatures on the sun porch, as compared to my basement, have speeded growth.
4. One conclusion I have reached is that my plants do much better in daylight than under fluorescent light, but a major portion of this result is due to higher temperatures. Up to a certain point, this factor will force plants to grow and bloom more rapidly. If a steady temperature of 80°+ was maintained, plants would soon become unhealthy. My range is 60-80°, and it works out very fine.

For the past week our weather has been extremely cold — lots of snow and ice — and the sun is so feeble it does not even generate enough heat to melt the long icicles hanging in front of my sun porch windows.

But when I come home at night, and after the kids are in bed, it is so relaxing to go out

Continued bottom next page

GREATER NEW YORK SOCIETY TO ENTER IN THE INTERNATIONAL FLOWER SHOW

Paul R. Younger, New York, N. Y.

After a successful first place winning entry in the 41st annual International Flower Show, held in March 1958, the African Violet Society of Greater New York has again this year been invited to participate in the 1959 floral exposition. The New York Coliseum will again become almost overnight, a fairyland of full-scale gardens, floral displays and exhibits from the far corners of the world. The 42nd annual show will be held March 7th through the 14th, 1959.

The International Flower Show was attended in 1958 by over 168,500 visitors, leaders in the field of amateur, professional and commercial horticulture. Since 1913 it has operated as a nonprofit, educational exposition to inspire and help all peoples toward richer, finer lives of more abundant beauty. It is a gigantic demonstration of the best knowledge, methods, and ideas, new and old, in the field of using plants and flowers for the benefit of all.

Throughout the eight days of the show there will be separate judgments on three different days of the various African violet classes so that plants entered in competition will not be on display more than three days. For the first time cash awards will be given in the amateur classes.

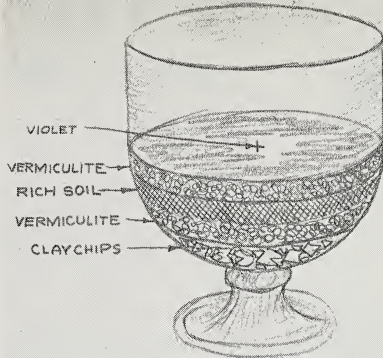
An information booth, to answer the myriad of questions on African violet culture will be maintained by the membership of the African Violet Society of Greater New York. A good display of show plants is planned as part of the booth, to portray the show theme "A Garden Community."

Continued from preceding page

on my sun porch, set up a TV table, get myself some Gouda cheese, potato chips, or perhaps a long loaf of French bread, sit in my rocker, and just gaze at the beauty that really not much effort has produced. And when those cold icicles glisten in the moonlight, and the winter winds howl, I think to myself, "You know, I was right, it is beautiful out here with all my violets blooming away and a few exotic orchids placed among them. I should have thought of this long ago."

But I am getting a little crowded. Just the other night I mentioned to my wife, "Wouldn't it be nice if I added a greenhouse to the porch and extended it just past the kitchen window? We could keep the window open and it would be such a pleasant view?" The dead silence that followed encouraged me no end, and it may just prove the basis for another article next year!

end



HAVE GOBLET: Can Travel

Daisy Jones, Memphis, Tennessee

The above words are so true about my lovely clear plastic goblets that I recently purchased. Naturally I am always on the lookout for something original and unique in which I can plant my African violets, and the goblet, when planted with a medium size blooming violet, is a beautiful sight to behold on a living room table by the side of a table lamp.

To prove the goblet can travel, I planted three of them, using clay chips in the bottom, then a layer of vermiculite, then a layer of African violet potting soil, then another layer of vermiculite, then scooped out the center to place the violet, and then poured warmed rain water around the sides of the goblet to moisten the plant down.

I covered the tops of the goblets with Saran Wrap, and placed them on the floor of the car and drove one hundred and seventy-five miles to Mississippi to take them to three sick friends. Oh, they were thrilled to receive them, and I firmly believe it will start them on the road to a wonderful new hobby of growing and sharing their African violets, and that they will have as much pleasure and happiness from theirs as I have from mine.

end

STYRA-SOIL

Elsie Klein Davis, Vicksburg, Mississippi

Since writing the article on Styra-Soil, which appeared in the December 1958 magazine, I have made one change in my fertilizing program. I now alternate Ra-Pid-Gro with Stim-U-Plant, feeling that the African violets need a change in fertilizer the same as children need a change in food.

Requests for more information about Styra-Soil have been many, and will be answered as rapidly as possible.

end

HOW TO UNPACK YOUR PLANTS

Grace H. Beardsley, Georgetown, Kentucky

These suggestions are meant primarily for beginners because it is when we have first been bitten by the African violet bug that we are apt to order large plants by mail. Older collectors usually obtain leaves or rooted cuttings, except, of course, in the case of a new introduction too exciting to wait months for.

When the mailman brings that exciting package, do not dig into it in mad haste. Remember that years of experience and care have gone into that packing. All reputable dealers long ago evolved their procedures for protecting delicate and brittle petioles (leaf stems) when mailing plants. Your plants will emerge in good shape, provided YOU do your part and unpack gently.

You should spend about as much time in the unpacking as went into the packing. After all, you are just reversing the process the sender went through. Work slowly. That plant is probably not in danger of suffocation. Chances are that it could have travelled further yet and still have been fresh after its trip. If you remitted for special handling, the plant has probably come through to you quite quickly.

When you have opened the carton you will find that the individual plants look like cocoons or Egyptian mummies in their wrappings. First, stand them so they won't tumble. Then study the pattern of the tape with which they are bound. Decide where it can be cut away from the corrugated paper or newspaper without pulling. A jerk at the wrong place can undo all the care that went into the packing and handling. If,

after undoing the wrapping, you find that cotton has been placed over the top of the soil, do not pull it away. Many a leaf is yanked from a plant at this stage. Strong manicure scissors are helpful here, as they can curl around pieces of the cotton and snip it away in safe places. Easy does it!

Watch out for the marker with the name of the plant. It may have been tucked into the wrapping, or stapled to it. Some dealers merely pencil the name on the wrapper; if this is the case, put the name on a marker right away. Do not trust your memory. We may think we love each plant so much that we will never forget, but there are many similar names and plants. Collectors are no longer satisfied to identify by color. The days of "I have a white — do you have a pink?" are long over.

If leaves have broken off, make a slanting cut with a razor blade, leaving about one and one-half to two inches of petiole. Then set the leaves aside to let the cut ends heal while you are giving your plants the next part of their treatment. Many collectors wait an hour before putting down leaves to root. Half an hour is usually long enough. But, if you are afraid that you will have to leave the leaves too long, turn the leaf upside down and dip it in water. This moisture will keep it fresh for a long time. Be careful not to let the moisture get to the end which is drying.

The newly arrived plants should never be put on a window sill in blinding light and dry air as soon as they are unpacked. They went from

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WAYNE, N. J.

a moist greenhouse into the total darkness of their journey, and this process must also be reversed if much setback is to be avoided. Do not waterlog them at this stage either, with rivers of moisture.

This is the method I have worked out as the most satisfactory way to condition newly arrived plants. Your menfolk will want my scalp for this, as it will tie up a bathtub. If the plants were shipped in pots, I set them in glass dishes or watertight pans several inches deep. These I stand in the bathtub away from the faucets. Having previously made certain that the hot water is steaming, I draw the shower curtain to hold the moisture in as much as possible. Turning on the hot water (being careful not to use the shower faucet by mistake) I let it fill the bottom of the tub, without being deep enough to go over the rims of the pans. Here I leave the plants over night, to take up the refreshing moisture through their leaves.

The next day I accustom them gradually to light. They would be shocked by too sudden brightness. Placing them on a table away from any windows, I gradually work them up to a north light. That evening I place them on the sill of a window with a brighter exposure and let the gradual coming of daylight take it on from there. Not until this point do I water, unless the plants have become powdery dry.

If the plants have been shipped out of pots, I merely stand them in pots to hold them upright during their session in the tub. No moisture reaches the soil in this process, and they can be potted another day when there is more time.

In the tub, be sure to leave plenty of space between plants. During their journey, the leaves have been bound together quite tightly. Overnight the plant will resume its normal shape and the leaves will spread wide.

Do not be too disappointed if a blooming plant arrives with many of its blossoms wilted or if it subsequently drops its buds. This is almost inevitable. The conditions of travel which a leaf can take are just too much for the more delicate flower petals; and it is the reason why many collectors prefer to buy, and many dealers prefer to ship, smaller plants. The smaller plants make their adjustment to home conditions before they are ready to bloom. Pick off all wilted blooms and all broken petioles. I advise you not to take off many leaves to root until the plant has become acclimated. Use the leaves that broke off, and put them down according to your favorite method.

Maybe your plants arrive when you have lots of leisure. Mine always seem to come a split second before I am due somewhere else for the day. The quickest way to take care of the leaves is to put them in water in small, colored medicine bottles. I leave the original labels on them and pencil the violet name on the label. Later, when I have more time, I fix them properly.

And now, a "do" and a "don't" for those who get their mail in post-office boxes. Do be sure to put "P. O. Box" on your correspondence, not just "Box." Several dealers have been willing to ship to me between seasons because they knew that their plants were going to a warm post office instead of a cold rural box. And, don't let dealers ship to you special delivery, for plants will not be delivered to the home of a box owner. Pay for special handling instead. Most of the time it seems to mean the speed and the care that it implies, though a couple of times it has seemed to mean using the package as a football.

Do I sound unnecessarily fussy about unpacking? Let me recall what Helen Van Pelt Wilson once wrote. Because her new living quarters were not ready until cold weather, it was necessary for plants to be shipped to her out of season if she was to have any new varieties at all. Both Tinari's and Fischer's protected them so well, she said that it took her a full half hour to unpack each one. Being an expert, she did not begrudge the time it took to match their patience and care in packing. And we lesser lights should not begrudge it either.

There is one loose end here. What will you do about that husband who has missed his shower because of the violets? Tell him that America became great in the days when Americans took baths only once a week. Tell him that skin specialists say our skins become dry because we take too many baths. Tell him anything but the fact that as an African violet husband he is in for things much worse! end

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from

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GOODIE-GOODIE—Huge two-tone heavily fringed bright double pink, very large round wavy dark foliage.

BREATHLESS—Large round very full deep pink double, very dark glossy red-backed wavy foliage.

MAVERICK—Huge very frilled deep pink single, dark shiny very red-backed leaf.

TWIN MAVERICK, PEACH CHIFFON, CONSTANCE HANSEN, GOSSEMER WINGS, many others.

List of fresh cut leaves by request.

REGISTRATION REPORT . . .

Constance Hansen, Box 302, Lafayette, California

PART I

The following applications for registration have been received during the period from September 8, 1958, to December 31, 1958:

PLANT AND REGISTRANT

GOLDEN GATE (1066) P2dL, **P.T. DAWN** (1067) LB5dM, **P.T. FROU-FROU** (1068) W2dS, **P.T. STARDUST** (1069) WX25dS, **WUNDA** (1070) W25dS, 9/18/58, Edena Gardens, 461 Bridge Rd., Walnut Creek, Calif.
BLUE TRAIL (1071) LB2dL, 11/6/58, Mrs. Robt. Stanton, Box 16, Moscow, Mich.
FANTASY QUEEN (1072) OC4sS, **DOUBLE SNOW FRILL** (1073) WP8dS, 11/6/58, Mrs. Dean Kuntz, R. 4, Winterset, Iowa.
HERMOSA (1074) P2dS, 11/12/58, Carolyn K. Rector, P. O. Box 94, San Pedro, Calif.
DADDANELLA (1075) DB25dL, 11/18/58, Beatrice Mills, 3532 Lake Ave., Rochester 12, N. Y.
FRATHEL'S FASHIONETTE (1076) OW4dL, **FRATHEL'S GLACIER** (1077) W23dS, 11/18/58, Mrs. J. Frathel, 252 Clay Ave., Rochester 13, N. Y.

The following names have the prefix: **GRANGER GARDENS:**
G.G. APRIL LOVE (1078) BW4dS, **G.G. DOROTHY GRAY** (1079) GC83dS, **G.G. EMBER DREAM** (1080) R23dS, **G.G. FABERGE** (1081) P43dS, **G.G. FUCHSIA BRIDE** (1082) P43dS, **G.G. GOOD NEWS** (1083) P93dS, **G.G. HUGENOT** (1084) VC93dS, **G.G. MASQUERADE** (1085) RC9dS, **G.G. MAY MELODY** (1086) MB95dS, **G.G. SHAG** (1087) PRX95dS, 11/18/58, Granger Gardens, R. 2, Medina, Ohio.
DOUBLE LAVENDER RUFFLES (1088) OS5dS, **SOUTHERN PINK PRINCESS** (1089) P4dS, **TENNESSEE BEAUTY** (1090) MB23dL, **SOUTHERN COQUETTE** (1091) OX5sL, 12/3/58, Mrs. T. C. Fritz, 1533 Brightridge Dr., Kingsport, Tenn.
CALIFORNIA GIANT (1092) V.s.L, 12/31/58, Tropical Nursery, 10343 #99 Highway, Stockton 5, Calif.
AZURE PUFF (1107) WB28dL, **RASPBERRY REVEL** (1108) R8dS, 1/29/59, Everglad Violet House, Herkimer, New York.
LOUIS SUTTON (1109) PX4dS, **MELODY AIR** (1110) PW2dS, 1/30/59, The Select Violet House, 2023 Belmont Ave., Youngstown, Ohio.
BUD'S STRIKE ME PINK (1093) P4dS, **GRANGER GARDENS ANGEL LACE** (1094) WC26sL, **GRANGER GARDENS CRIMSON CHALLENGE** (1095) R29dS, **WHITE PUFF** (1096) W5dS, 1/10/59, Granger Gardens, R. 2, Medina, Ohio.
ALI BABA (1097) R2dS, 1/17/59, Harold L. Geis, 2405 Dickey Place, Houston 19, Texas.
PINK PRIDE (1098) P9dS, 1/17/59, Mrs. Leah F. Paul, 2165 Preston St., Salt Lake City, Utah.
P.T. ARCTICA (1099) W26dL, **P.T. CROWN JEWEL** (1100) OX28dS, **P.T. EUGENIA** (1101) P4sS, **P.T. HAPPY MOOD** (1102) BV46sS, **P.T. LASSO** (1103) P4dM, **P.T. OMAR ROSE** (1104) RX29dL, 1/25/59, Edena Gardens, 461 Bridge Rd., Walnut Creek, Calif.
PATTI ANNE (1105) BC4dS, **ARCTIC SNOW** (1106) WC2dS, 1/26/59, Tinari Greenhouses, 2325 Valley Rd., Bethayres, Pa.

PART II

The following name reservations have been received from September 8, 1958, to December 31, 1958:

Ali Baba, **P.T. Lasso**, **P.T. Winsome**, **Brigitte**, **Carolee**, **Cherry Wine**, **Cinderella Pink**, **D'Amour**, **Day Dream**, **Falling Star**, **Gold Band**, **Go Pink**, **Iva**, **Laughter**, **Longfolia Green Bud**, **Nature Boy**, **Paradox**, **Parrot Feather**, **Sky Pink**, **Sot W.i.e**, **Morning Kiss**, **Pink Mint**, **Pink Satin**, **Counterpoint**, **Chou Petite**, **Rococo**, **Annalee**, **Idalee**, **Orchella**, **Angelee**, **Jenn.i.e**, **White Wilderness**, **Pink Alaska**, **Gunsmoke**, **Sunmaiden**, **Ruffled Royalty**, **Lorea**.



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ROCHESTER 21, N. Y.

TRANSPLANTING

Alice Harless, Knoxville, Tennessee

As all growers know, water, light and balanced potting soil are necessary to produce good African violets.

A word of caution about transplanting, however, may be useful. Transplanting should be done after the heavy flowering period, but many times violets are repotted while in full bloom, with no setbacks.

Before removing the plant from the old pot, have the soil and new pot ready. The roots should not be allowed to dry, as that may produce shock. Remove the plant gently from the old pot, being careful not to disturb the soil around the roots, and set the plant in a pot large enough to take care of the present roots and allow for new growth.

Be careful about overwatering. The soil should be damp but never soppy wet. For a few days do not expose the plant to bright light, as that may cause loss of moisture and retard recovery. end

CHILD OR VIOLET, IT NEEDS T.L.C.

Kate Rutledge, Plainview, Texas

An African violet, the same as a little child, will grow, flourish and blossom forth with a beautiful personality if it is given but one important ingredient, tender loving care.

Tender loving care or TLC as it is expressed by many African violet growers, is fast becoming a national password with the members of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. Anyone who has succumbed to the spell of the enchanting little plant knows that TLC can entail much work, much time, and many harassed, anxious moments. But each time a tiny, new plantlet springs from the stem of a leaf put down, a new variety unfolds its first blossom or a friend exclaims over the beauty of your plants, you inflate with pride, feel as if you will burst, heave an enormous sigh and think, "TLC—it's all well worth it."

Compare again, if you will, an African violet with a child. When a child is born he is your sole responsibility, must be fed, kept clean and made comfortable. So, too, it is with your precious little plantlet still clinging to the mother leaf. The plantlet must be fed just the right amount of lukewarm water with small doses of fertilizer at regular intervals to keep the vermiculite in which it stands just damp, neither too wet nor too dry. A soft, camel hair brush will aid in keeping your "baby" clean. Brush it gently, for the leaves are brittle, every few days to remove the unwanted dust or a light spray of tepid water will do the job. Keep your little one comfortable by making sure it lives in a not too warm, not too cold (about 70°) humid atmosphere.

As a child grows from babyhood into an active youngster he must learn to break away from his mother, become acquainted with other people and the outside world. Also your little plantlet must approach adulthood. When it has grown into a small, healthy plant, the largest leaves being about two and one-half inches long, it must be separated from the mother leaf. Now it must become adjusted to a new pot of good rich soil, porous and loose, and take its place among the other violets of your collection.

Protection must follow your child even though he has started to explore the big outside world. This is your job. Skinned knees, cuts and bruises must be nursed, germs and enemies must be driven away, a balanced diet and pleasant living conditions must be ever present. Protect, too, your plant youngster. When a leaf is accidentally broken from the plant, brush the laceration lightly with powdered sulphur to heal the wound. Inspect the plant often for decaying leaves and remove them; adopt a regular spraying program for insects and stick to it. Continue a well-

balanced diet and watch the room temperature and humidity carefully.

Slipshod care of a child or an African violet may keep it alive. It will probably even grow. But you will have no beauty, no personality, no feeling of pride in something you have molded and developed. One thing alone can create a thing of beauty, be it a child or an African violet: lots of love and tender care. Apply it generously and one day you will realize that you have truly created something outstanding. Your child is now a man—strong, healthy, personable, ready to step into the world alone; your tiny plantlet is now a mature African violet—strong, healthy, full of personality blossoms. Here the comparison between a child and a violet ends because for the rest of the plant's life it will need you and you will find that the longer you have it the more TLC you will give it. And each time a colorful blossom unfolds and smiles up at you, it will repay you a hundred times over! end

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Youngstown, Ohio

CHAFF FROM CRICKEN FARM



Vera Covert, Amsterdam, New York

Hi Neighbors! If you can't settle down to
 H read any better than I can pull myself to-
 gether to write, we may as well go out and dig
 fishworms. I found myself thinking about what
 hybridizers do in their off moments . . . the
 times when they aren't mixing up a new mess
 of glamorous genes.

Dig the college Prof. in St. Paul
 Who teaches genetics Spring, Winter & Fall.
 But when Summer cometh
 This fellow will runneth

To find and climb some mountains tall.

(How about that, S. C. R.?)

I know another A. V. member
 Who juggles genes from Jan. till December,
 And when work is done
 What he does just for fun
 Is spelunking —

which won't rhyme with December.

Note to editor: As a poet, Covert ain't up to
 par, there are others more clever by far. There
 ain't no good metre, but by gum you can't beat
 her for a screw ball idea that's a star.

For the edification of all those who are on my
 I. Q. level, a spelunker is a sub-genus who isn't
 satisfied with what he can see of nature above
 ground. He prospects for hidden caves and under-
 ground passages: a wet, dirty and often danger-
 ous hobby. I recall one Sunday we drove up to
 Lyon's and Ruth said Lyn would be back soon.
 He was out in the woods with his eight-year-old
 granddaughter. When they came in, Linnie
 looked like a ten year old and Donna said, "We
 couldn't find it." It seems that Grandpa had
 headed a search for Davy Crockett's teething
 ring. Last July 3rd, we were fishing near Linnie's
 so we went over to say hello. Again Lyn wasn't
 there. When he did come, he burst through the
 door with, "I got 'em, Ruth!" Then he saw us
 and shouted, "Come on, Covert, I'll show you."
 He dived into the box he had set on the bench,
 came out with a handful of something; assuming
 I was to follow, I just reached the door when the
 air was shattered by what sounded like one
 hundred jets breaking the sound barrier. In came
 our brilliant hybridizer grinning — fire crackers!
 Believe it or not, hundreds of cherry bombs in
 that box, to be cheery little noise makers for the
 Grand and Glorious Fourth!

So don't ever waste sympathy on the hard
 working guy who gives us the new beauties.

There's quite a bit of "fun and frolic" in his
 humdrum existence.

For Pete's sake, how did I get off on this
 tangent . . . must be the season, Spring and
 stuff like that there.

Will the meeting please come to order. Today
 we will take up the problem of travel, with
 toothbrush, pajamas and ice cube trays.

I'm sure you have all heard of writer's cramp.
 But have you ever heard of editor's headache?
 It's much worse . . . and an unpaid editor's
 headache is the livin' worstest of all. I'll try to
 explain.

Alma is sitting in her office, putting a
 magazine together, trying to mix information,
 both technical and amateur, with bits of humor
 and suggestions. It doesn't always balance. The
 material just doesn't come in to her desk. So
 she has to go scouting for it. One day she wrote
 my good friend, "Lightfingers," asking her to
 find someone to write about ways of carrying
 leaves that we all acquire when on a trip. Lf.
 then wrote to me. "Do you know of anyone?"
 sez she. "No," sez I, "but I have a cute little
 method." Then in my sneaky way, I asked if I
 could use it in my column. So Lf. sez to Alma,
 "May we do that?" . . . and Alma says, "O.K.,"
 . . . so Lf. sez to me, "O.K., go ahead." Sorta
 complicated, especially with the present price of
 postage. You can figure that there was twenty-
 four cents in postage tied up in this deal so far.

The truth is, many times I am at a loss to
 know what kind of stuff to put in this column.
 Once in a Blue Moon, some reader will send me
 a suggestion but mostly I have to scratch my
 own dim wits or ask Grandmaw for help. The old
 girl gets around, you know. I'll let her tell you
 about it.

"Grandmaw, how do you carry leaves when
 you travel? What is your trick?"

"Well, Land sakes', it ain't no trick. Jest
 take a shoe box an' line it with aluminum foil.
 Set little pots in it an' pack moist sphagnum
 moss around 'em, then fill 'em with moist verni-
 culite. I usually stick in a few leaves so's I can
 give 'em to folks. Put the cover on an' away
 you go. When you git leaves, you set one in
 each pot. When you git home again, your leaves
 are all planted an' all you do is set the pots in

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The Annual Business Meeting of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., as held in the Sheraton Ballroom of the Sheraton Hotel, Rochester, New York, on Friday morning April 25, 1958, with the President, William B. Carter, presiding.

The reading of the minutes of the last Annual Business Meeting was dispensed with since they were printed in the African Violet Magazine.

The report of the Auditing Committee was read by the Treasurer, Mrs. Arthur Radtke. Mrs. Theodore Rosenak, Thiensville, Wisconsin, moved that we accept this report. Seconded by Mrs. Jennie Spoutz, Fraser, Michigan. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS — By-Laws — Mrs. Arthur Radtke, a member of the By-Laws Committee, was asked by the President to explain about the By-Laws and she gave the following report: —

As a member of the By-Laws Committee, I would like to offer some minor corrections to the report of the Annual Business Meeting as printed in the March 1958 issue of the magazine. The committee hopes to have the amended By-Laws ready for publication in the next Handbook. The amendment concerning Research Members did not have listed the amount of dues to be paid and the Nominating Committee was to report to the President in ample time for the membership to be notified by mail or by publication in the magazine. The amendment passed at the Pittsburgh meeting will be incorporated and typographical errors corrected. The words as and standing were left out and will be added, and so far as it is possible, we hope to eliminate all discrepancies, thereby, having the wording of the By-Laws as they were actually passed.

The President, Mr. Carter, explained that the first attempt of the Executive Director Committee to obtain a satisfactory person failed. The Committee had learned much through this experience and it will continue its efforts to secure a satisfactory Executive Director.

NEW BUSINESS — The Nominating Committee was asked for their report and the Chairman, Mrs. Claude E. Greeley, gave the following report: —

President.....H. G. Harvey, Atlanta, Georgia
1st Vice-Pres.....Mrs. Jas. B. Carey, Knoxville, Tenn.
2nd Vice-Pres.....Dr. Evan Roberts, E. Lansing, Mich.
Recording Sec'y.....Jos. D. Schulz, Indianapolis, Ind.
Membership Sec'y.....Mrs. Robert Wright, Knoxville, Tenn.
Corresponding Sec'y.....Mrs. Ed. Jones, Beaumont, Texas
Treasurer.....Mrs. Arthur Radtke, Cincinnati, Ohio

Directors.....Mrs. Clarence Howard, Westfield, N. J.
Mrs. Elbert M. Lewis, Gadsden, Ala.
John T. Buckner, Pleasant Hill, Mo,
Mrs. Pearl Thomas
Walnut Creek, Calif.

The President asked for nominations from the floor.

Mrs. George MacIntosh, Normal, Illinois, nominated Mrs. Jeff Rhoades, Assumption, Illinois, for the office of Director. No other nominations, the President declared the nominations closed.

The President appointed Henry Peterson, Cincinnati, Ohio; Mrs. John Heid, Cleveland, Ohio; Mrs. Jennie Spoutz, Fraser, Michigan; and Mrs. Charles Stoehr, Greenwood, Indiana; as tellers. Mrs. A. B. Cooper, Covington, Kentucky, as judge. Ballot slips were passed out and the members were instructed to vote for four (4) Directors out of the five (5) nominated.

Mrs. A. B. Cooper, judge, gave the following report of the ballots cast for the Directors: 139 ballots counted, 3 ballots disputed and not counted. Mrs. Clarence Howard 130; Mrs. Elbert Lewis 129; John Buckner 134; Mrs. Pearl Thomas 131; Mrs. Jeff Rhoades 14.

Mrs. Clarence Howard, Mrs. Elbert Lewis, John Buckner and Mrs. Pearl Thomas were elected and the President so declared them officially elected.

The Secretary was instructed to cast one vote for the following officers: —

President.....H. G. Harvey, Atlanta, Georgia
1st Vice-Pres.....Mrs. Jas. B. Carey, Knoxville, Tenn.
2nd Vice-Pres.....Dr. Evan Roberts, E. Lansing, Mich.
Recording Sec'y.....Jos. D. Schulz, Indianapolis, Ind.
Membership Sec'y.....Mrs. Robert Wright, Knoxville, Tenn.
Corresponding Sec'y.....Mrs. Ed. Jones, Beaumont, Texas
Treasurer.....Mrs. Arthur Radtke, Cincinnati, Ohio

The Secretary cast the ballot and the President declared the officers elected.

There being no other business, the President declared the Annual Business Meeting adjourned at 11:20 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,
MARGE WOLF
(MRS. GILBERT D. WOLF)
RECORDING SECRETARY

LOST MEMBERS

Please write P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tennessee, if you know the correct address of any of these members.

Mrs. Merle Anderson, 214 N. 2nd Street,
Grand Forks, North Dakota

Mrs. Minnie Barton, 403 S. Alexandria Street,
Los Angeles, California

Mrs. Roe Black, 2470 S. Mead, Denver, Colorado

Mrs. E. F. Brummitt, R. F. D., Box 135,
Richmond, Virginia

Mrs. Mark T. Demaree, Kirchhoff Road,
Arlington Heights, Illinois

Mrs. H. Green, 3952 W. 51st Street, Gary, Indiana

Mrs. E. R. Harris, 430 E. Swan Avenue,
Webster Groves, Missouri

Mrs. Henrietta Hein, 1408 N. Long Avenue, Chicago, Illinois

Beverly Hoffman, Box 269-C, Route 1,
Englishtown, New Jersey

Miss Jennie C. Irwin, 900 N. 16th Street,
Nashville, Tennessee

Mrs. Margaret Kern, 1594 Hayden Avenue, Apt. 12,
E. Cleveland, Ohio

Mrs. John Larkin, 135 Hyder, Anchorage, Alaska

Mrs. D. J. Leitch, 4764 Baywood Point, Gulfport, Florida

Mrs. John Lunz, 824 N. Duke Street, York, Pennsylvania

Mrs. A. L. Lupia, 1401 Cape View Avenue,
Norfolk, Virginia

Mrs. Florence Methot, 37 Alaska Street,
Roxbury, Massachusetts

Mrs. Martin Nelson, 4061 Warren, Boise, Idaho

Emma L. Parker, Route 6, Gadsden, Alabama

Lola J. Pearce, 872 Atlantic Avenue,
Rochester, New York

Mr. Stanley Pearson, 15 Strathallen Park,
Rochester, New York

Nelsene Redmond, 2336 High, Denver, Colorado

Gladys Saxton, 1404 W. Riverside, Spokane, Washington

Mrs. Wm. Spier, 4180 Whitehall Road, Muskegon, Michigan

Starlight Garden Club, c/o Mrs. Grace Brown,
1724 S.W. 10th Street, Miami, Florida

Mrs. Paul Weckmuller, 164 Eight Avenue,
N. Troy, New York

PROGRAM

"AFRICAN VIOLETS IN THE MOTOR CITY"

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

6:00 P.M.	Registration	Ball Room Foyer
To		
9:00 P.M.		

THURSDAY, APRIL 16

8:00 A.M.	Registration	Ball Room Foyer
To		
6:00 P.M.		
7:30 A.M.	Judging School	Michigan Room
	Mrs. James Carey, Knoxville, Tennessee	
	Chairman of Committee on Staging Shows	
12:30 P.M.	Judging School Examination	Michigan Room
To		
2:00 P.M.		
2:30 P.M.	Convention Convenes	Ball Room
	Mr. John T. Buckner, Pleasant Hill, Missouri, presiding	
	Invocation: Mr. Walter Woodruff, Windsor, Ontario, Canada	
	Presentation of National President, Mr. H. G. Harvey, Atlanta, Georgia	
	Introduction of Convention Chairman, Mrs. Ronald Reaume, Detroit, Michigan	
	Introduction of Program Chairman, Mr. Joseph D. Schulz, Indianapolis, Indiana	
	"STORY OF THE AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE," Alma Wright, Editor, Knoxville, Tennessee	
6:00 P.M.	Dinner Meeting	Ball Room
	Mrs. Edward Jones, Beaumont, Texas, presiding	
	Invocation: Mr. Mervin Tofflemire, South Windsor, Ontario, Canada	
	"WELCOME TO DETROIT," Honorable Louis J. Miriani, Mayor's Office, Detroit, Michigan	
	"LIGHTS AND YOUR VIOLETS," Peggy Schulz, Minneapolis, Minnesota, Consulting Editor, Flower and Garden Magazine	
9:30 P.M.	Exhibits Open (Registered Convention Members Only)	
	Amateur Show	Wayne Room
	Commercial Show	Wayne Room
	Commercial Sales	Bagley Room

FRIDAY, APRIL 17

8:00 A.M.	Registration	Ball Room Foyer
To		
6:00 P.M.		
6:00 A.M.	Exhibits open for Amateur Photographers	Wayne Room
To	(Registered Convention Members Only)	
8:00 A.M.		
8:30 A.M.	WORK SHOP AND DISCUSSION GROUPS	
	"Affiliated Chapters and Program Planning"	Parlor F
	Chairman: Mrs. Martin Wangberg, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin	
	Assisted by: Mrs. Jack Yatie, Port Arthur, Texas	
10:00 A.M.	"Commercial Growers Conclave"	Ivory Room
	Chairman: Mrs. John Landaker, Cincinnati, Ohio	
	"Registration of African Violets"	Ivory Room
	Registrar: Mrs. Constance Hansen, Lafayette, California	
	"What's Your Problem?"	English Room
	(General discussion of violet problems including organics)	
	Chairman: Mrs. W. B. Green, Memphis, Tennessee	

Panel: Mrs. Charles Stoehr, Greenwood, Indiana
 Mrs. Edward Casey, Rochester, New York
 Mr. Harold D. Schmelling, Jamesville, New York

"Show Problems and Judging" Parlor D
 Chairman: Mrs. James B. Carey, Knoxville, Tennessee

10:15 A.M. Exhibits Open (Registered Convention Members Only)
 To Amateur Show Wayne Room
 12:00 Noon Commercial Show Wayne Room
 Commercial Sales Bagley Room

12:30 P.M. Luncheon Meeting Ball Room
 To Mrs. Jack Yakie, Port Arthur, Texas, presiding
 2:15 P.M. Invocation: Mrs. E. Sponenburgh, Windsor, Ontario, Canada
 "AN INSIDE STORY," Mr. Richard F. Stinson, Ph. D., Assistant Professor of
 Horticulture, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan

2:30 P.M. Exhibits Open (Registered Convention Members Only)
 To Amateur Show Wayne Room
 4:30 P.M. Commercial Show Wayne Room
 Commercial Sales Bagley Room

6:30 P.M. Banquet Meeting Ball Room
 Mr. H. G. Harvey, President, Atlanta, Georgia, presiding
 Invocation: Rev. Harold Thompson, Birmingham, Michigan
 Introduction of Life Members. All Life Members are requested to sit at the
 reserved table in front of the speaker's table.
 Roll Call of States
 "VIOLET VATICINATIONS," Panel of Guest Speakers:
 Mr. Frank Tinari, Bethayres, Pennsylvania
 Mrs. John Buynak, Cleveland, Ohio
 Mrs. Harry Arndt, Troutdale, Oregon
 Mr. Lyndon Lyon, Dolgeville, New York
 AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY AWARDS FOR 1958, Mrs. Z. C. Layson, Chair-
 man of Awards Committee, Maysville, Kentucky

9:00 P.M. Exhibits Open (Registered Convention Members Only)
 To Amateur Show Wayne Room
 11:00 P.M. Commercial Show Wayne Room
 Commercial Sales Bagley Room

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

9:00 A.M. Morning Meeting Ball Room
 Mr. Floyd L. Johnson, Canandaigua, New York, presiding
 Invocation: Mr. Richard Groombridge, Detroit, Michigan
 Annual Business Meeting
 Mr. H. G. Harvey, President, Atlanta, Georgia
 "REPORT ON RESEARCH," Mr. Neil C. Miller, Chairman Research Committee,
 Penns Grove, New Jersey
 "THE BUYER'S GUIDE REPORTS," Buyer's Guide Committee of African
 Violet Magazine
 Chairman: Mrs. Sam O. Nichols, Nashville, Tennessee
 Secretary: Mrs. John Buckner, Pleasant Hill, Missouri
 Mrs. Charles Stoehr, Greenwood, Indiana
 Mrs. Charles Suhr, Waterville, Ohio
 Mrs. William Rodda, Ossian, Indiana

SPECIAL AWARDS — DETROIT 1959 CONVENTION

The INDIANA STATE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY'S BRONZE PLAQUE to the registrant of the
 best registered named variety in the specimen Classes 1 through 24 in the amateur show.

CORRECTION

Madison Gardens Award \$25.00 for best specimen Sleeping Beauty.

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN
AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.**

MYRTLE RADTKE, Treasurer
P. O. Box 1826
Knoxville, Tennessee

Date _____

Please enroll me as a member of African Violet Society of America, Inc. My Dues are enclosed.
All Classes of Memberships Are Defined Below.

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| SELECT | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership is only \$4.00. |
| AND | <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Membership is \$13.33. |
| CHECK | <input type="checkbox"/> Research Members pay \$20.00. |
| ONE | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Membership is \$10.00. |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership is available for \$66.66. |

Print Name and Address:

Name _____

Street Address _____

City and State _____

Make Checks Payable to African Violet Society of America, Inc.

DETACH ON DOTTED LINE

GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

A year's membership in the African Violet Society of America, Inc. makes a wonderful gift for every occasion — birthdays, anniversaries, Christmas, holidays, or as an appreciation gift for club speakers.

A gift card (you may enclose your own) will be sent to the recipient of your fine gift.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS . . . Individual members pay \$4.00 per year (a year may be any twelve-month period).

COMMERCIAL MEMBERS . . . All persons or firms who annually sell one thousand or more African violet plants or leaf cuttings of the same; or who manufacture or sell fertilizer, disease and insect-control materials and equipment, tools, or any other merchandise pertaining to or applicable to growing African violets shall be commercial members. They shall pay \$13.33 per year (a year may be any twelvemonth period). Of each annual dues so paid, all sums in excess of \$4.00 shall be applied to the Research Fund of the Society.

RESEARCH MEMBERS . . . Research members pay at least \$20.00 for each twelvemonth period of membership, and at least 85% of each membership paid shall be applied to the Research Fund of the Society.

SUSTAINING MEMBERS . . . Sustaining members pay at least \$10.00 per year (a year may be any twelvemonth period).

LIFE MEMBERS . . . The payment of \$66.66 or more shall entitle any person to life membership, and life members shall be exempt from any further dues.

MEMBERSHIPS OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

The Society is happy to welcome members from all parts of the world. Application for membership should be sent direct to the Treasurer. Remittance for membership dues, by check, draft or postal money order, should be made payable in United States funds.

the window. Don't seem to me that's hardly worth tellin' folks about. Tell 'em how you do it."

Well, I don't grow all my plants on a window sill, so I dreamed up a little trick using ice cube trays. I get the plastic ones in the five and dime store. Then I fill them with moist rooting medium. If the trip will be a long one . . . that is, if I will visit lots of violet folks, I take several trays and pack them in a shallow carton. Put the carton in a plastic bag, and that's it. I include a razor blade and narrow adhesive tape . . . so I can cut the petioles and label leaves. I place each leaf in its individual compartment, and it stays there until the babies are ready to repot.

Recently I used the little plastic greenhouse that comes with twenty-four wee thumb pots. By covering the floor with Sponge-Rok, and moistening it, a nice humidity is maintained.

A friend of mine has a cute idea. Bert takes half an egg carton, lines it with foil and fills it with vermiculite. A leaf goes in each egg pocket. It's real neat and tidy.

The trouble with me is, I do hate to come home from a wonderful trip and be faced with unpacking the luggage, sorting out soiled laundry, hanging up garments — then have all those leaves to set down. This way I eliminate at least one operation and the leaves are nice and fresh at the end of the trip.

Will this fill my column, Alma? Sure hope so 'cause there isn't any more to tell. Have another cup of coffee, folks. Grandmaw made it today, while I was busy typing this article. And believe me, Grandmaw sure does make good coffee.

Now if any of you readers have anything in mind that you think would be interesting, please drop me a line. I will dig up the information if I can. I'm not a storehouse of knowledge, but I know lots of sources of information. Maybe, between us, we can fill this column for the nice editor down in Tennessee.

That about does it for this time, folks. See you all in June. end

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FLOWERS ALL YEAR AROUND

Paulette Doret, Vancouver, B. C., Canada

I would like to tell you a little about my African violets and how I became a grower.

Five years ago last spring, the first meeting of the British Columbia African Violet Club was held at the home of our late president, Mrs. J. W. Stewart. I had noticed the advertisement in the newspaper and decided to attend. Although I am very fond of flowers, and grow them in profusion in my garden, I had never had an African violet and was not sure what they looked like, but they sounded lovely in the advertisement.

I was the first to arrive, having made a mistake in the time. This, however, gave me an opportunity to have a chat with Mrs. Stewart, and also to view her very large collection. I was most delighted and could hardly believe my eyes; all those pastel shades with the diffused sun playing on them were just too beautiful! Since then I have been a fan.

I have good luck growing them. They say I have a green thumb. I do not know about that, but I do not think they are difficult to grow. Of course, they need attention just like anything else; but given water, light, kept free of dust, dead flowers and old leaves removed, and a little Hyponex once in a while, they can be grown by anyone. It is such a delight looking at them, and they seem to look right back at you with all their little heads of flowers.

I have quite a number growing in the basement under fluorescent light, but the larger ones I have in the living room and dining room, facing north and south. In all, I have between fifty and sixty plants in front of both windows, arranged on wrought-iron stands covered with glass. I have flowers all year around, and some of my plants have been blooming for three years without stopping. I think they are most fascinating, and my eyes never grow tired of looking at them.

Here's to bigger and better African violets!

end

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FRESH CUT LEAVES BY MAIL

25 and 50¢ — none higher.

OVER 400 VARIETIES including newest releases, and best of older choices.

PLANTS 35¢ up at house — none shipped.

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THE METROPOLITAN ST. LOUIS COUNCIL OF AFRICAN VIOLET CLUBS

Adele Tretter, Council President

The first African Violet Club in this locality, the Webster Groves African Violet Club, was organized in January 1949 by a group of Webster Groves women led by Mrs. Carl Schroeder. The first meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Berkemeyer on February 10, 1949. Through the influence of this club, more African violet enthusiasts in St. Louis began grouping into organized societies, the earliest of which were the Viking Club in 1949 and the Normandy Club in 1951.

In the spring of 1952, these three clubs sponsored the first African violet show for the St. Louis vicinity, with Mrs. Farris of Webster Groves as general chairman. The show was successful in further popularizing the African violet and in stimulating the organization of five new clubs in St. Louis and St. Louis County — the Ionantha, the Greater St. Louis, the Rainbow, the Amethyst, and the Holly — all organized in 1952.

On February 3, 1953, the president and two representatives of each club met for the purpose of integrating the groups into a Council that was to have two general meetings and one board meeting each year. With the formation of the Council, Mrs. A. Zimmerman, of the Webster Groves' group, was elected the first president. As one of its first functions, the Council presented the second St. Louis African Violet Show on April 18, 1953, under the chairmanship of Mrs. W. Mock of Webster Groves.

The County Belles and the Twilight Clubs were organized that same year (1953). At the Council meeting, Mrs. Wayman of the Viking Club was elected Council president for 1954.

When the Evening Sunset Club was organized in January 1954, the total number of clubs in the Council was brought to eleven. The Council, with Mrs. Mock as chairman, was hostess to the National African Violet Society Convention and Show held at the Hotel Chase in April of 1954. One of the activities planned for the guests by the Council was a tour of St. Louis, ending at the Missouri Botanical Garden, where a tea was served in the Museum Building in the Garden.

At the 1954 Council meeting, Mrs. Thelma Usinger of the Amethyst Club was elected to succeed Mrs. Wayman.

A twelfth club, the first to include husbands with their wives, the Knights and Ladies Club, was formed in 1954.

Twelve clubs participated in the third African violet show in April of 1955 (the Cinderella Club had been added and the Evening Sunset Club discontinued).

In November 1955, Mrs. W. F. Anderson of the Viking Club was elected by the Council to serve as president during 1956. At this meeting, the Normandy Club and the Ionantha Clubs agreed to unite to form the Normandy-Ionantha Club.

The fourth show was held at the Missouri Botanical Garden in April of 1956, with Mrs. Fred Tretter of the Greater St. Louis Club, as chairman. More than five thousand visitors attended this show. In October 1956, the Council elected Mrs. Tretter to be the 1957 president.

Another club joined the Council in 1957, the Clementine Club. This club was organized in June 1956. The Twilight Club discontinued membership with the Council in 1956.

The fifth African violet show was held again at the Missouri Botanical Garden in April 1957. Mrs. Ed Nelson of the Amethyst Club was chairman.

Mrs. Tretter was elected, in October 1957, to serve a second term as Council president, for the year 1958.

The sixth and last show was given in March 1958. Mrs. J. Lincoln of the Viking Club was chairman of this show.

Our next show will be given, as usual, at the Missouri Botanical Garden on May second and third 1959, with Mrs. D. Doam as chairman.

The Franklin County Club, whose members are from Washington, New Haven, Beaufort and Gerald, Missouri, was organized in June 1957 and accepted in the Council at our October 1957 meeting. The St. Clair County Club was organized on January 28, 1958. This club was accepted in the Council in February 1958 by the executive board so that they could take part in the 1958 show. The members of the St. Clair County Club are from East St. Louis and Belleville, Illinois. These two clubs bring the total number of clubs in the Council to thirteen.

For a club to be a member of our Council, the club must be duly organized, officers elected, and a regular meeting date established. The club cannot have less than five nor more than thirty active members, all of whom are individual members of the National African Violet Society of America, Inc., except in clubs including married couples, in which case either the husband or the wife shall be a National member, the other being required to be a local member only. The club must be affiliated with the National African Violet Society also. end

MAKING COMPOST IN A GARBAGE PAIL

Nellie S. Loucks, Orange, New Jersey

I have between five and six hundred African violets that I keep in a room on the third floor of an old house in which several people live. The room was once a bedroom.

Sometime ago I was staying with friends who live in a beautiful, old-fashioned, long, low white house on a farm in New Jersey. A short distance from the house there were four old red barns, one for the tools (when they were not here, there and everywhere), one for the feeds, and one for the grains. The fourth, a tall, two-story red barn, was for the horses and hay bins, and was mellowed with years of service, rich in fragrant odors of the many animals that had been kept there for nearly a century. Adjoining this barn was the sheep fold and pen, that was open so the sheep might go in and out as they chose. Perhaps you will be able to imagine the black, rich manure that has been accumulated here.

I said to myself, if I just had a place to keep that good, rich manure, I would have some nice food for my African violets. "But, manure in a room in a house!" For sure I must have some, so what could I do. Oh, yes, a new, shining garbage pail with a tight cover, and, of course, keep quiet about my new project as there were other people living in the house. I needed to be cautious. The remarks I was sure I would hear loudly, "What are you doing, and what is that smell?"

My plant room is in a southeast corner, and I needed food for those beautiful plants. I have been interested in soils and organic soils for a few years, having tried many of them without too much satisfaction. A corner of my mind began wondering, and usually that is the beginning of real work — real work and real, tender, loving care.

I now have my own compost that I make in a garbage pail. My first try, I placed a thin layer of soil in the bottom of my new garbage pail, then a layer of rich, black manure. As the leaves were beginning to fall, I gathered a paper bag of leaves, and on top of the manure I placed a layer of leaves, then a little more manure, and so on until the pail was half full. Not knowing anything really, I waited for a few days, and then turned my mixture with a large spoon. It did take a few weeks for the leaves to decompose. Because of my little knowledge, I didn't put in all of the needs. I did have a nice, black compost; and in that manure there were a few earthworms. In a few weeks I sifted that fine, black compost. I did not have a proper sieve, but used one I made with a box and a small piece of hardware screen, one-fourth inch mesh.

Folks, I did have a real thrill. My African violets loved that fine food.

That was a year ago. I am now making all of the compost I use for my plants, and am acquiring a few plastic bags in excess.

I will now tell you how I make compost in that same pail and in one more new pail, and make it faster than I need it for my own use. I do not use leaves as they are slow in breaking down. I put a layer of my coarsest compost that does not go through my homemade screen, and plant leaves that are not entirely decomposed, in the bottom of the pail as a starter. Then I put in any earthworms that I have, and by now there are quite a few, next a spoonful of Activo, then a layer of manure. From this point on I am using different material than I did at first. If I have a few potato peelings, a few of the outer leaves of lettuce, orange or lemon peel, perhaps the skin of a banana (they are high in nitrogen), pineapple peel, or anything I have in that line, these are added as they all decompose quite fast. Remember always to add a layer of manure or coarse compost, alternating a bit at a time. After a few days I do turn my mixture.

There is no odor of an unpleasant nature, and not much work, only to remember not to throw away any vegetable or fruit peel.

In a short time I am able to sift out enough rich, black compost. This is not a planting mix. It is a fine compost. I do have to add the other necessary materials to make a plant mix. end

AFRICAN VIOLETS

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L TULANA CLOUD: See photos of new, spring varieties page 8.

MICHAEL O'SHEA: Huge wine with gold frilled edge.

IRISH COLLEEN: Frilly Dbl. pink and green.

LEMON DROP: Rich cream frill with lemon center.

GREEN FROTH: Huge white with 1/3 of frilled petals green.

BOLD WARRIOR: Bold purple and white striped bloom. Big leaves.

ICEBERG: Extremely large white, but not Supreme.

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Please order directly from this ad as our SPRING lists have already been mailed. We expect to mail another free list by June, so send us a card if you'd like a copy.

SPECIAL COLLECTION #2 — Sixteen outstanding newer varieties. Rooted leaves — \$5.00, Fresh Cut leaves — \$4.50 Postpaid.

BLUE NOCTURNE	ROSE GLOW
DIXIE MOON. GIRL	SHOW CHAMPION
DOUBLE DUBONNET	SPARK. WATERS
DRESDEN DREAM	STAR BLUE
DROPS O' WINE	STRIKE ME PINK
FRINGED SN. PRINCE	TAFFETA
PINK FEATHER	UNION CO. SPOTLIGHT
PINK FLARE	WHITE PRIDE

SPECIAL COLLECTION #3 — Fifteen new varieties. Rooted leaves — \$5.00, Fresh Cut — \$4.50 Postpaid.

BLUE POM	MARK ROBERTS
CHARTREUSE LACE	PRIMA TIP
DARK STAR PINK	RUFFLED BI
FASCINATION	SNOWY PRINCESS
FRINGED POM POM	SWANKY
FROS. SNOW PRIN.	T.V. ROSE PROM
HONEY	VAL. PK. PETTICOATS
LT. BLUE CLUS.	

SPECIAL COLLECTION #4 — Fourteen newest varieties. Rooted leaves — \$5.00, Fresh Cut — \$4.50 Postpaid.

AFTERGLOW	MATCHMATE
ALBINO FANTASY	PINK GENEVA
AVON	REDDERNESS
BLUE CHARTREUSE	SO SWEET
FAIR LADY	SWISS FANSY
FALLING STAR	TILLIE
FRECKLES	WHITE GODDESS

ROOTED LEAVES OF THE VARIETIES LISTED BELOW OR ANY LISTED IN THE SPECIALS ARE 50¢ EACH. FRESH CUT LEAVES — 40¢ EACH. (See our September ad, page 71 for descriptions, and December ad, page 28 for more varieties for sale.)

AFRICAN GIRL	PINK BABYBREATHER
ANN RUTLEDGE	PINK GLAMOUR
BITTERSWEET	PINK RIPPLES
BLUE GOLD LACE	PINK SEQUIN
CHIFFEWA	POPCORN
CLARISSA HARRIS	PRELUDE
COTTONTOP	ROYAL LACE
DAYTIDE	SEA SHADOWS
DOUBLE DANDY	SHOW SHADOWS
DBL. PEACH BLOSSOM	SILVER PLUTE
FR. APPLE BLOSSOM	SKY BLUE PINK
GLADNESS	SPIC
HOLIDAY SPORT	SPAN
INVADER	SPELLBOUND
KIMBERLEY	SPLASH
LIGHT INVADER	SPOTLIGHT
LITTLE JEWEL	STAR WHITE
LITTLE SWEETHEART	STARLIGHT BLUE
LONGIFOLIA DBL. PINK	SUNDAY POST
MARBELODIA	T.V. CUT VELVET
MY CHOICE	T.V. SCANDAL
MY SIN	WARM WELCOME
NANCY HANKS	WINTERSET

Orders for rooted leaves and fresh cut leaves CAN'T be sent combined, so please order your leaves all rooted or else all fresh cut.

HENRY TEN HAGEN

DEPT. MS WARSAW, New York
(Free price list on request. 25¢ charge to foreign countries.)

PLEASE NOTE: To speed delivery, all orders are sent by first-class mail, using blocks of commemoratives. No orders are accepted under \$3.00, and on orders below \$5.00 please add 75¢ for postage and packing. Airmail is 50¢ extra up to a \$5.00 order and 5¢ more for each \$1.00 of the order above that. We guarantee safe delivery anywhere in the United States. All cuttings are labeled and true to name.

IT'S EASY TO GROW AFRICAN VIOLETS

Bette Torriere, Lockport, New York

I never dreamed two years ago that I could be the perfect hostess to African natives. Since then, I have discovered that African violets, like Hottentots, are semicivilized and do best when grown under native conditions.

I received my first African violet from a friend whose feelings I would not hurt by letting the plant die. When in doubt, I always go to the library for books, and this time I got some about African violets. Since my rather lonely hobbies of writing and stamp collecting took quite a bit of my spare time, I did not read the books with real enthusiasm. As a result, I made a lot of first year mistakes. I overpotted; I was afraid to put my violet in any but the north windows, even in summer in this cloudy Great Lakes area other windows can be used; and I bought dirt (just dirt) advertised as African violet dirt, assuming that it must be the perfect potting potpourri.

That first plant did not flower again for months, but then did so so profusely that I became one of the avid African violet addicts. In the meantime, I found that I had an interest that others shared, and was given several leaves from which I eventually grew several plants. That first year was a trail of "trial and error."

Actually, African violet raising is as simple as it is satisfying, once you have learned how. I too, now, through the help of several authors, through the completely interesting information in the African Violet Magazine, and through practical experience, have my own proven methods. My African violet leaves, like Mr. and Mrs. Kranz predict in their book, "Gardening Indoors Under Lights," are blooming plants in five months. I am using their soil formula too, but would suggest Black Magic as a very good commercial potting mix for those who do not wish to mix their own potting soil.

I start my plants under fluorescent lights in the cellar, which is never unheated in winter, and bring them up to glass window shelves the minute they begin to bloom.

I never let the plants become "bone-dry." I go through them each day to see which ones need watering, as they do have individual needs. I use warm water.

I do not fertilize as frequently as is advocated, but I try to give them all a "booster shot" every month.

I never, never overpot! Three inch squatty pots are usually the largest nesting spots for my violets. Baby plants go into two and one-quarter inch pots and stay there until after their first blooming.

I always use drainage. I put crushed stone (boiled for twenty minutes) and charcoal as drainage in the pots. Crushed stone can be obtained from a construction company by the pailful. I buy charcoal by the bagful and break it up with a hammer. I use a layer of sphagnum moss to keep the soil from sifting down through the drainage. I always use damp soil to transplant into. Then I water gently.

My violets get a spray bath of warm water regularly. All old leaves and flowers are picked off at first sight. All offshoots are taken off the minute they dare peak out. Grooming promotes blooming.

I run a vaporizer in the upstairs rooms occasionally during the winter, for added humidity. African violets can be plebeian. They love the cozy kitchen where cooking steam reminds them of their tropical background. Western New York state is so humid that the lack of humidity is not usually a problem.

Little paper cups are an economical substitute for the small pots. I punch drainage holes through several at once with an ice pick.

Shirt boxes, with the bottoms nested in the tops and covered with aluminum foil, make inexpensive plant trays.

Some would have us believe that African violets are shade lovers. Sunshine cannot be absolutely banned by any blossoming plant. I let common sense choose their site. Too much sun will bleach their leaves, too little will produce lush leaves but no flowers.

You don't need a jungle juju to successfully entertain these African natives. Just provide a little extra care, and they will reward you with their everblooming beauty.

I marvel that a flowering plant should bring so many people together and give them so much pleasure. Yet, in this era of tension and stress, it is not too surprising that a form of botanical life attracts so much attention. The very miracle of a growing plant conveys a message of the Eternal Spirit.

end

LIGHT

Plants need light to grow, but only recently has the low light tolerance of many plants been determined, that is, how little light house plants can live on.

When fluorescent light is used, there should be a balance of the red and blue rays. For blue light, daylight tubes are used; for red light, warm white lamps serve the purpose. An excess of red light causes tall, elongated plant growth, while too much blue light stunts growth.

Do not switch plants back and forth from dim corners to bright light. Such treatment will be harmful. Any transition should be gradual.

end

Between York and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

HI HILL GARDENS

You've never seen single crown plants in such heavy bloom. Thousands of greenhouse grown plants, old and new varieties.

Directions:

From the Pennsylvania Turnpike exit at the "Harrisburg West Shore" exit. Drive toward York on Rt. 3, watch for our sign in about 2½ miles.

Open weekends too.

VIOLET TREASURE HOUSE 217 West Emma Avenue SPRINGDALE, ARKANSAS

We are quitting business. Fluorescent lights, metal flats, pots, etc., for sale. If you need some lights, this is a good opportunity to get them cheap. NO CORRESPONDENCE. Come in person.

AFRICAN VIOLETS

Fresh cut leaves by mail. Send stamp for list. 350 varieties plants at house. Evenings week days; after 1:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

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715 W. Housatonic Street

Pittsfield, Ma.s.

SPECIAL

\$3.50 — postpaid

Leaves from Quality Plants

Air Waves
Blue Peak
Bridesmaid
Dixie Moonbeam
Flamingo
Lavenda

Little Sweetheart
Mary Thompson
Pink Cloud
Torchy
Tiana
White Pride

WRIGHT'S VIOLETRY

4022 221st St.

Bayside 61, N. Y.

Free List

BUYER'S GUIDE

We are again giving you our CHOICE TWENTY-FIVE and I am sure you will notice we have tried to give you our choice variety in each color class. If our favorite color happened to be pink, it would have been easy to choose all our favorites from that color. I am sure you realize how hard it is to choose twenty-five varieties and say they are your favorites, with the numerous varieties there are from which to choose. There are numerous good varieties, but we are always searching for a distinctly new and different variety or a more perfect plant among the varieties we already have.

Our plants are judged on many points, since we judge the foliage as to its color, shape, symmetry, whether flat or upright growing, whether it is too large or too small, etc. Blossoms are judged about the same, as to size, color,

Pictured are the committee members and their reports:



Mrs. Sam Nichols

3950 Dickerson Road

Nashville, Tennessee

CHOICE TWENTY-FIVE: White Pride Supreme, Blue Nocturne, Kimberley, Blushing Beauty, Beaming, Casey's Pride, Meteor, Primitif, Fire Dance, Heart of America, Lovely Lady, Northern King, Pink Fog, Little Jewel, Fleet Dream, Lingo, Southern Beauty, Spotlight, Bold Design, Fascination, Pink Fire, Peach Chiffon, Tennessee Pink, Star Blue and Red Glow.



Mrs. William C. Rodda

P. O. Box 6

Ossian, Indiana

CHOICE TWENTY-FIVE: Honey, T-V Vallin-pink, Kimberley, Fleet Dream, Olivia, Blue Nocturne, Lorna Doone, Pink Miracle, White Orchid, Cydonia, Pink Double One, Faberge, Beaming, Corrine, Blue Flag, Double Uncle Bob, Matchmate, Cherry Ice, Double Black Cherry, Fire Dance, Vagabond, Black Magic, Tennessee Debutante, Chartreuse Lace and Blue Imperial.

shape, whether double or single, fringed or plain, profuse bloomer or sparse bloomer, etc.

If a certain group of plants has similar blossoms and foliage, we list them as similarities, even though some of them may sometimes have very dark foliage and others green, or another may have a deeper color, a larger blossom, be more profuse, etc.

As the list of African violet varieties increases, we seem to have more and more duplicate names that we try to search for and give you from time to time. Should you know of any at any time that we have not listed, we would appreciate it very much if you would send them to us. We always appreciate your comments, either of praise or criticism as the case may be, so please keep them coming as that is the only way we have of knowing if we are giving you what you want. If there is anything you feel we can do that would be of more benefit to you in growing your favorite plant, the African violet, please feel free to let us know.

Please be sure and send in your CHOICE TWENTY-FIVE varieties violet list to the secretary, Mrs. Buckner, not later than April 1st. We will be looking forward to seeing many of you in Detroit in April.



Mrs. John Buckner

206 N. Lake Street

Pleasant Hill, Mo.

CHOICE TWENTY-FIVE: Blue Fantasy, Blue Flag, Blue Nocturne, Boyce Edens, Bud's Pink Valentine, Cherry Pink, Crusader, duPont Lavender Pink, Fire Dance, Fleet Dream, Honey, Lavender Lace, Lovely Lady, Mendota, Pink Miracle, Pink Double One, Rose Glow, Sir Lance-lot, Sleeping Beauty, Span, Spic, Spotlight, Star of the North, Westfall White and White Madonna.

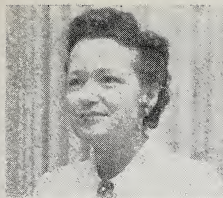


Mrs. Charles Stoebr

Route 1, Box 143

Greenwood, Indiana

CHOICE TWENTY-FIVE: Coon Valley, Kimberley, Little Jewel, Redderness, Little Giant Blue, Fascination, Lingo, T-V Vallinpink, Fire Dance, Star Blue, Blue Nocturne, Pink Miracle, My Sin, Pink Double One, Spotlight, Carnation Frilled Purple, Lorna Doone, Star Delight, Honey, Crimson Challenge, Pink Sequin, Primitif, April Love, White Goddess and White Pride Supreme.



Mrs. Mary E. Suhr

Dutch Road

Waterville, Ohio

CHOICE TWENTY-FIVE: Autumn Moon, April Love, Beaming, Blush O'Dawn, Blue Nocturne, Cavalier, Crimson Challenge, Cathy Reed, Dorothy Gray, Faberge, Fire Dance, Fascination, Fleet Dream, Hector, Lilac Dale, Lingo, Matchmate, Purple Princess, Pink Masterpiece, Royal Chiffon, Spotlight, Tennessee Pink, Vagabond, T-V Vallin-pink and White Rock.

MY METHOD OF GROWING AFRICAN VIOLETS

Daisy Jones, Memphis 3, Tennessee

1. I keep my violets in a north window, but east or south windows, semishady is O.K. too.
2. For me, long leaves indicate insufficient light, short leaves mean too much light.
3. Each plant has a saucer—I use warm water, either from the top or bottom of the pot, once or twice a week.
4. I keep my plants in small pots so they will get root bound and bloom quicker. Repot once yearly.
5. In daytime my plants get temperatures of 65-75 degrees; nighttime, 55-60 degrees. They like humidity.
6. My plants can't stand cold rooms or breezes.
7. For soil conditioner I use Vio-Vim. For a plant food, Plantabbs or Hyponex from the SEED MART.

I don't have a GREEN THUMB!!! But, AFRICAN VIOLETS ARE MY HOBBY. How about sharing it with me ??? end

QUADRA POTS AND TRAYS

Plastic planters in compact square design. The Quadra Pot and Quadra Tray combined to make an attractive window sill planter is ideal for African Violets and all other house plants desired. These pots are superior in everyway to all others we have, so far, found and offered to our customers.

QUADRA POTS — UTILITY COLORS

2 1/2"	25/\$1.25	50/\$2.25	100/\$ 4.00
3 "	25/\$1.50	50/\$2.75	100/\$ 5.25
3 1/2"	25/\$1.75	50/\$3.25	100/\$ 6.00
4 "	25/\$2.00	50/\$3.75	100/\$ 7.25

Utility colors are marbled and may vary from time to time. Grey, greens or mottled shades. We have no control over, nor can we guarantee any specific colors on these.

COLORLED QUADRA POTS

2 1/2"	25/\$1.50	50/\$2.75	100/\$ 5.25
3 "	25/\$1.75	50/\$3.25	100/\$ 6.00
3 1/2"	25/\$2.00	50/\$3.75	100/\$ 7.25
4 "	25/\$3.00	50/\$5.50	100/\$10.00

These are in white, yellow, red, green.

QUADRA TRAYS

Mix or Match your Quadra Trays with your Quadra Pots. These come in two sizes only and are so designed to fit as a cover for dry bulbs or seeds, as well as being used for a saucer.

3 1/2"	25/\$1.50	50/\$2.75	100/\$ 5.25
4 "	25/\$1.75	50/\$3.25	100/\$ 6.00

Colors — black, white, red, green, yellow.

ROUND POTS — UTILITY COLORS

2 "	25/\$1.00	50/\$1.75	100/\$ 3.00
2 1/4"	25/\$1.25	50/\$2.25	100/\$ 4.00
2 1/2"	25/\$1.35	50/\$2.50	100/\$ 4.50
3 "	25/\$1.50	50/\$2.75	100/\$ 5.25
4 "	25/\$3.00	50/\$5.50	100/\$10.00

ROUND SQUATTIES —

UTILITY COLORS

3 "	25/\$1.50	50/\$2.75	100/\$ 5.25
3 1/2"	25/\$1.75	50/\$3.25	100/\$ 6.00
4 "	25/\$3.00	50/\$5.50	100/\$10.00

PLASTIC SAUCERS

These are in black only and made to fit the above Round and Squatty Pots.

#2	25/\$1.00	50/\$1.75	100/\$ 3.00
This #2 size fits —	2", 2 1/4", and 2 1/2" Pots.		
#3	25/\$1.25	50/\$2.25	100/\$ 4.00
#4	25/\$1.75	50/\$3.25	100/\$ 6.00

Please include 10% for postage and packing. Minimum order \$3.00 plus postage, please.

MRS. N. B. WILSON

4184 Bankhead Hwy., Rt. 3, Austell, Georgia

"Please say you saw it in A. V. M."

now!

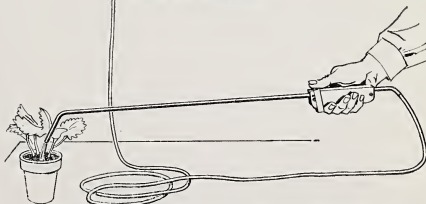
THE NEW

Tube Craft

WATERING AID



Here's the item needed by every indoor flower grower... an all aluminum light weight watering aid. No more lugging heavy and awkward watering cans, spilling water, or breaking leaves. Complete with 8 feet of plastic hose, all aluminum shut off valve, and 18 inch wand only \$6.95 each. Add 25 cents West of Rockies. Shipped Parcel Post Prepaid. Send check or money order TODAY. Made and guaranteed by the manufacturers of the popular FloraCart. Send for literature.



TUBE CRAFT, INC., DEPT. C

1950 W. 114TH STREET
CLEVELAND 2, OHIO

ROOT AND STEM ROT

Mrs. G. B. Oden, Hattiesburg, Mississippi

There are many causes for stem and root rot. The first, and probably the most common, is inconsistent watering. Plants are allowed to dry almost to the dying point, and then given a large drink of water. The dried out, damaged roots cannot take up so much water, therefore the soggy condition makes a good place for fungi to start to work, killing the roots and eventually the whole plant. Sometimes plants are allowed to sit in water. This leaves no place for oxygen, so the roots soon die and rot from suffocation.

Nematodes are another cause of root rot. The knots formed along the roots cut off the supply of water and food, which will starve the plant and cause rotting. This is another condition that invites fungi and bacteria to go to work on weakened roots.

Too rich a soil will kill the roots. This may be caused by adding too much plant food when the soil is mixed, or by too frequent feeding, or by too strong a mixture of plant food. My remedy for this is to shake off all of the soil that you can and replant in a pot of vermiculite. The plant will soon recover if you will not add any food (only plain water) until it has shown active growth.

Potting soil may be too heavy. When heavy soil is watered, it becomes packed around the roots and cuts off the oxygen supply so that the roots die and rot.

Care in the watering of your African violets, caution with the amount of fertilizer that is used, and the use of a loose-textured, sterilized soil, should do much to prevent root and stem rot.

end

LILLIAN'S VIOLET ROOM

CHAPLEAU, ONTARIO, CANADA

Beautiful African violet plants in bloom, rooted leaves, fresh-cut leaves, soil, fertilizer, pots, starting medium, vitamin-B1 and N.N.O.R.

We ship from coast to coast. Price list on request.

See our Exhibit at the National Convention in Detroit

"Keep on your toes — for who knows"
You may win our award on Sleeping Beauty
— a variable — gorgeous violet.

MADISON GARDENS

½ mile West of 528
Middle Ridge, Madison, Ohio

A VACATION INSPIRATION

Dorothy Felgar, Schenectady, New York

The more I read the articles on leaving plants for vacations, in which the writers said they placed each pot in an individual plastic bag, the more discouraged I became. By the time I had made arrangements for the pets and packed the clothing for a three week vacation, there just was not time enough to handle each pot separately. At last the idea came, and it proved so successful that I would like to share it with others who are in a similar situation.

You are all aware of the damage done by kind friends who overwater, and I was determined to leave my African violets alone. A few years ago my husband made me a stand (two shelves, six feet by two feet) which is placed lengthwise against the basement wall, to keep it out of the way of growing boys and Siamese cats. I watered all the plants well, and placed several open quart jars of water among them. Then, I bought a plastic drop sheet, such as painters use, which is about nine by twelve feet, and simply thumbtacked it to the ceiling above the violet stand. I tucked it under the legs at the bottom, but left the ends free to allow for air circulation. My only worry was that the cat, who is extra nosy, would tear it down. A timer took care of the lights.

When we returned, after a lovely trip, the violets were all in bloom and looked better than when we left. Only one small plant was lost, and, luckily, I had a duplicate of that.

In case any of you are interested in this easy method, the "Coverall Plastic Tarpaulin" (.00100 Gauge Seamless Polyethylene) is priced under one dollar and is manufactured by The Jacroy Company, Bedford, Ohio.

end

A VACATION-TIME VIOLET-SITTER

Each year as vacation time draws near, the question uppermost in the minds of African violet collectors is, "Where can I get someone to take care of my violets?"

Mrs. Ronald Reaume of Detroit, Michigan, has suggested that your own bathtub will make an excellent violet-sitter. She suggests placing ordinary bricks on their sides in the bathtub, then fill it with water up to half an inch of the brick tops. Place the plants on the bricks, leave the bathroom shade high, and the violets will be safe and happy for a month.

One vacationing African violet owner who tried this, returned home to find her plants growing beautifully, and all of them loaded with blossoms.

end

ALI BABA

H. L. Geis, Houston, Texas

Readers of the African Violet Magazine will remember an article in the December, 1955, issue in which R. G. (Bob) Anderson, Tonkadale Greenhouses, was quoted as reporting thirty-six flowers on a single flower stalk. Alma Wright, in private correspondence, mentioned an even more amazing — and verified — count of forty-two flowers on a single stem of Velvet Purple, a variety which seems to have disappeared from commerce. It came to her originally from John M. Good, Good and Reece, Springfield, Ohio.

Hybridizers may be interested to learn of a new seedling, still in the process of testing, which has exceeded even these reports.

VERY FLORIFEROUS

Ali Baba, so named when it became evident that the flower count per stem would reach forty, has the fixed habit of producing two flower stalks per petiole. The primary stem produces up to forty-five flowers — with several undeveloped buds, indicating still greater possibilities — and the secondary stem produces up to twenty blooms. Each petiole, therefore, has the potential of producing a truly prodigious sixty-five flowers.

The parent seedling has been in continuous bloom for more than a year, with thirty to sixty flowers open at a time. The flower is a wine fleur-de-lis, similar to, but redder than, Vagabond; single, wavy, of average size, tending to become smaller when the plant is in full bloom. The flowers are carried on long stems, nicely above the moderately low growing plant. The leaves are deep green, fairly large, wavy, sleek and somewhat quilted.

The male parent of Ali Baba was Mrs. Vallin's Texas Goliath, from Dark Beauty and Texas Fringe. The female parent was Tonkadale Greenhouses' Hi-Loa Light Blue, derived from Mauve Fringette and a seedling of unknown parentage.

RADIATION TRIED

Ali Baba was part of a radiation experiment in which the seed was exposed to about five thousand Roentgen units of soft X-ray. It is uncertain that the radiation had anything to do with its extreme floriferousness, and further uncertain that the quality will prove genetically strong. The mutation rate in its progeny, however, should be slightly increased over that of normal hybridization. Ali Baba was self-pollinated to prove fertility; germination was rapid to an acceptable eighty percent.

A few advance leaves or plantlets may soon be available through Mrs. George S. Vallin, Beaumont, Texas, and Mrs. Grace T. Grissom, Houston, Texas. end

PROPAGATION: MY WAY

Margaret L. Travis, Knoxville, Tennessee

Every experienced grower has a favorite way to propagate African violets from leaves. For the beginner, here are some simple suggestions.

Only full sized, firm leaves are chosen. Cut each one on a slant, with an inch and a half of stem remaining. A small glass will hold three leaves. Cover the glass with aluminum foil, and make holes for the stems to go through into the water. If the water is hard or contains a great amount of chlorine, try rain water. Keep the end of the stem immersed, and the glass in good light, but not sun.

After the roots form, watch for little plants to develop. When the new leaves look strong and are about half an inch across, it is time to pot the plants. A two and one-half inch pot is suitable for a single leaf, although two or three can be placed in a larger container. Scrub the pot clean, and line the edge with foil to protect the stems.

There will be violent disagreement about the soil to be used. A successful grower gives these directions. Use potting soil packaged for African violets, and to one part soil, add four parts vermiculite. Place a layer of soil in the bottom of the pot over a few scrubbed pebbles. Spread the roots easily and cut off any that are too long. Fill in the soil carefully and press down. The cut end of the stem is below the soil, and so are some new leaves, therefore the whole process must be done with care. Set the pot in water until the surface soil is damp, then place in bright light, but not sun.

Sometimes the parent leaf needs propping up. If several young plants develop, they should be separated, repotted, or discarded. When the young plants look strong and well-established, it is time to cut off the parent leaf.

Some varieties progress faster than others, so it may require patience to wait for blooms. end

ROOTED

AFRICAN VIOLET LEAVES

A Post Card From You To Me
Brings Our List By Return Mail

DOROTHY K. ATKINSON

1702 Grove Ave. North Chicago, Ill.

PRODUCING NEW AFRICAN VIOLETS

The Elderkins, Toledo, Ohio

We know of two methods to produce new varieties of African violets: by mutations, and hybridizing.

Most of the new varieties we read about in the catalogs were produced by hybridizers working with mutations or descendants of mutations. Blue Girl, a mutation or sport of Blue Boy, is the "Mother" of most of the "Girl" type varieties. Duchess, another sport of Blue Boy, is the "Mother" of most of the doubles. Pink Beauty and Pink Girl are ancestors of most of the pink varieties. Lady Geneva is the "Mother" of most of the Geneva type varieties — she is another sport from Blue Boy. Star Sapphire, another sport of Blue Boy, is the "Mother" of most of the star type varieties. The species *S. ionantha* produced the sport called Ruffles. Holly is a sport of Ruffles. Fantasy is a sport of Blue Bird. If those nine or ten sports were not produced, our thousands of varieties of African violets would look very ordinary.

THE YELLOWS — Most of the yellows came from a clone of Blue Boy that mutated over fifteen years ago. This Blue Boy sport was not noticed. Anthoxanthin is a glycoside, that gives some yellow flowers their color, and was produced in this clone of Blue Boy. However, adjoining cells in the potential yellow blossoms carry an enzyme that is released before the blossoms open. This enzyme changes the yellow glycoside into invisible sugar.

CAROTIN or **CAROTENE** is another chemical that gives buttercups and many other flowers their yellow color. Carotin is a hydrocarbon with the empirical formula $C_{40}H_{56}$. Carotin is insoluble in water. Anthoxanthins are a group of glycosides soluble in water and no relation to carotin. There are two types of yellow African violets with carotin in their blossoms. One type was produced by mutating genes and the other is a symptom of a virus disease. Sometimes a virus can produce a mutation. If you have a violet with stiff petaled yellow blossoms that are slightly deformed, we would suggest that you give it an antibiotic and spray the leaves of all of your violets with a water soluble antibiotic to kill the virus. If the next crop of blossoms has normal petals, that still come yellow, you have something worth-while.

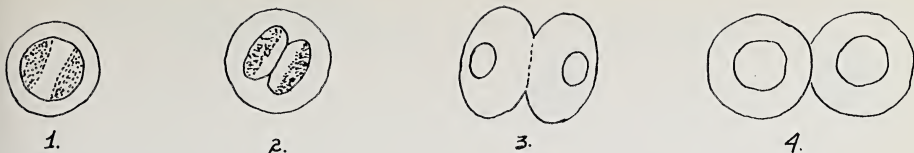
Articles like this must not be too long and drawn out because other members of our Society have very important subjects to bring to your attention, so it is necessary to avoid too many details. We told you about the relationship of all forms of energy in the March 1958 Magazine. Since writing that article, hundreds of radiated leaves have been shipped to violet lovers who have since been sending us their reports. It appears that the species *S. ionantha* is one of

the first violets in the octave where we find African violets. (You will notice that we gave you some information about the recurring scales in the March 1958 issue). Blue Boy is a few points up the scale from *S. ionantha* — other varieties more complex in structure are still further up the scale. Varieties of African violets that produce anthoxanthins in their blossoms appear to be receiving their vital energy on a beam of energy a few points above the others. In varieties still further up that scale, we find that the enzyme that changes the yellow glycoside into sugar is either held back or produced in smaller quantities so these yellow violets hold their yellow color longer. We have been testing a variety that holds its yellow color until a day or two before the blossom drops. Mutations from this variety will be produced in pairs as usual: one of the twins will produce yellow blossoms, that will not fade, and her twin sister will look very ordinary.

We have been working under many difficulties. Very few people realize how much it costs to produce a radiated African violet leaf so they are careless when they grow them. Then we do not get the information we need to carry on our experiments. So we have decided to restrict the distribution of our radiated leaves and grow more of them here. Growing plants from radiated leaves is different from growing plants from untreated leaves. When a hobbyist grows plants from an untreated leaf, often she just wants one or two baby plants, so the leaf is planted in a pot of garden loam that may not always be sterile — perhaps it is raw soil full of fungus diseases. The pot is something an Easter lily came in; if so, it is infected with crown rot.

Radiated leaves have been burned with X-ray; after that they are burned some more with other rays so they are not as vigorous as untreated leaves in the first place. If they meet a fungus spore, the fungus will find an unresisting host to grow on.

We are glad to report that more people are following instructions and they have been sending us happy reports. We ask each member of our group to grow their leaves in glass baking dishes filled with new vermiculite. Standing water encourages the growth of the crown rot fungus. This fungus cannot live very well where there is oxygen. The glass baking dish will show you at a glance if there is too much water. Air can work around the granules of vermiculite to either kill or keep the crown rot fungus in check. When you grow a leaf in a glass of water, oxygen is taken up by the water; but when you plant a leaf in garden loam, any oxygen is used up by the chemical reactions in the soil which gives the crown rot fungus a wonderful opportunity to



1. The thirty chromosomes have divided and moved to the opposite sides of the nucleus. 2. The nucleus divides: each part takes its position as far away as it can get from its twin. 3. Then the cell divides. 4. Two cells ready to repeat the process.

grow. That fungus attacks the roots first and works its way up to the crown. When the crown rots, the disease has run its course. By the way, we often grow African violets in the garden and water them with the garden hose. They grow nicely where they get shade from the trees. So the theory that crown rot is developed when the crown gets wet does not hold.

We find that leaves treated with two different types of radiation will give us an average of about one mutation from four baby plants. Every baby should be saved because it is difficult to tell which one will be the valuable new variety. You can pick out the yellows as the leaf petioles are light green. Their twin sisters will have a little red showing in their leaf petioles. They might be worth saving as they could have another valuable new characteristic. For instance, one of our mutations has leaves like a goblet.

HOW IT WORKS — Some of us know about genes and chromosomes. Some of us know about tape recorders and how the tiny molecules are rearranged as the tape picks up and records sounds. There are about thirty little particles in the nucleus of an African violet cell called chromosomes. (The yolk of an egg is an example of a nucleus in a large cell.) When a plant or animal grows, the cells grow two nuclei, then the cell divides and each new cell wall grows around a nucleus. That is only telling you a small part of the wonderful process called mitosis. (See diagram.)

If we could watch the process of mitosis under a very powerful microscope we would see the chromosomes split in two and move to the opposite sides of the nucleus, but we have not told you half of the story. If we could split a chromosome open we would find it filled with small particles like a string of hundreds of beads. These are called genes. Each gene is said to carry a certain characteristic like the shape and composition of certain cell or the color of part of a blossom. There is a chemical found in these genes called de-oxy-ribon-uclaic acid. It appears that this deoxyribonucleic acid or DNA, its three letter symbol, is a very large group of very complex chemical compounds and it is the real

carrier of inheritance. When we cross a girl leaved violet with a boy leaved variety, two slightly different kinds of DNA are mixed which makes a third kind of DNA that varies slightly in each of the two hundred embryo seeds in the seed pod. Each seed carries some of the girl leaf as well as some of the boy leaf characteristics. When these seeds develop into plants, each plant will be a different variety — two hundred different varieties — each variety varying from its sister according to the difference in the structure of the molecules of DNA in its genes.

We could have a wonderful new motor perfect in every detail, but it would be a piece of dead metal unless the electric current is turned on. The same applies to the wonderfully constructed African violet plant — it would just be a lifeless mixture of chemicals unless the current called LIFE is pulsating through its beautiful "body."

The variety Blue Boy has a very definite formula of DNA that in turn is in attunement with a beam of vital energy coming from The Source of Energy. The clone of Blue Boy that produces anthoxanthin in its blossoms has a more complex formula. Perhaps an atom has been added to its double helix molecule then this "recessive" yellow Blue Boy would be in attunement with a beam of vital energy further up the scale.

We have been asked how to produce mutations with X-ray. As we would not know much about the apparatus you have to work with, we would suggest that you cut some expendable leaves from a plant that can be replaced. Start these leaves and a few days later give one or two of them an exposure of a fraction of a second. Then turn the current down and radiate two more leaves.

If you have a long strip of paper to pull under the ray with the leaves on the paper, you need not expose your hands. If you are an experienced technician, you know what X-ray can do to you. As you only want to radiate the cut ends of the leaves, we suggest that you make a lead shield to protect the rest of the leaf. You will develop your own technique as you experiment. end

HUMAN RELATIONS

Fragile — Handle with Care



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from
ST. PAUL



"Variety is the spice of life"

Send for free list.

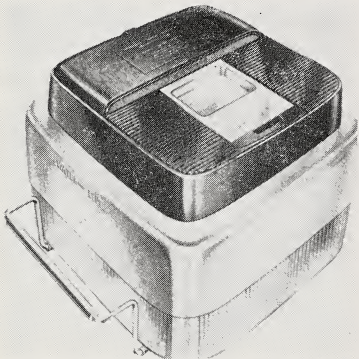
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ST. PAUL 5, MINN. ST. PAUL 5, MINN.

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Please send stamp for 1959 list.
Small and large plants at the house.
Lots of new varieties and some of the better oldies.
I am located about 2 miles from town on highway
95 north.

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Route 2, Box 100 Coeur d' Alene, Idaho

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African violets, begonias, ferns, philodendrons,
foliage plants, novelties, geraniums, supplies.
Sodium selenate 50¢; VC-13, \$2.95 prepaid. (Sterile
soil 10¢ per lb. and specimen plants at greenhouse.)
Closed Sunday a.m. Located 1 mi. S.W. McGrawsville.
Send stamped 10 inch envelope for spring list.



AUTOMATIC ELECTRIC HUMIDIFIER
FOR PLANTS

Gentle humidifying vapor for every leaf-pore to
drink! African violets in dry rooms bloom gloriously
with proper humidity. Vaporizes full gallon of water
at one setting. Automatic shut-off control, for hours
of refreshing healthful vapor. Completely portable
and light in weight for moving from room to room.
Also equipped with medicant cup for respiratory
irritations. Fully guaranteed. \$9.95 postpaid.

THE HOUSE PLANT CORNER
Box 911 Oxford, Maryland

Late rays of afternoon sunlight slant across the
tier-table of African violets, splashing gold
on the soft, moss green leaves, iridescence gleam-
ing in the luscious folds of lavender-pink, white,
blue and purple blooms. How strong and
vigorous they have grown this summer, nurtured
by all the basic elements and loving care.

Yet, how fragile they are. With rude mis-
treatment or neglect, how soon they droop and
fade to withered dust.

Isn't it strange — the close parallel between
plants and people?

I think of the thousands of little groups
across the continents, who band together to form
the great international organization. They have
one purpose and common interest, that of the
scientific advancement, perpetuation and pro-
motion of the Saintpaulia, or African violet, so
that it may continue down through the ages, to
be a thing of beauty, a joy forever.

Here, we strive to keep our club a healthy,
growing one. We tidy up, bring out our Sunday
best: compliment, reward our fellow member for
a job well done; allow the light of importance
to shine on each one in turn.

Despite all this, we have become infested by
the mites of gossip, the blight of unkind words
and thoughtless deeds. The nematodes of con-
flict flourish, causing a rift in trust and friend-
ship, where the mildew of discontent so easily
sets in. The leaves of contentment and well being
are scarred and bent, the gathering a less joyful
one.

Too bad we cannot foresee such things! What
a harsh teacher experience is! I guess the only
thing to do is to forget past unpleasantness and
concentrate on making certain that this situation
does not recur.

I wonder if the ladies would agree to having
a council with a mediator. Any member with a
problem or grievance could then submit it to
this committee. The councilors would study the
question individually and submit in writing an
honest, considered opinion, with a workable solu-
tion. The mediator would compile a statement
from these recommendations and mail it to the
member involved.

This sounding board would clear the air, so
that angry discussion would never spoil the
pleasant atmosphere and hospitality at a meeting
of the club.

We hope this shining signpost, so dearly
bought for our club, will serve to guide yours
too. It reads: Human Relations, Fragile, Handle
with Care. end

ENDRIN DISPOSES OF CYCLAMEN MITE

Lola Murray, Vidalia, Louisiana

At the time I suspected I had cyclamen mite in my African violets, I sent a plant and some soil to be analyzed, but the report was negative. However, to me, the plants had all the appearance and symptoms of mite infestation. The young leaves in the crown of the plants were dwarfed, misshapen and very brittle. The hairs on these leaves fell in almost every direction. Only a few plants bloomed, and that was very sparingly.

After reading Mr. Ulery's short article in the March 1957 issue of the African Violet Magazine, I decided to try and locate some Endrin spray. I finally found a farmer with a drum of it that had already been diluted for cotton spraying. He very obligingly gave me a pint of this solution. Neither of us knew what proportion the mix was, but I mixed one-half teaspoon of it to one pint of rain water, and sprayed heavily over and under

my plants. Fortunately the solution was not too strong, as there were no ill effects on the violets whatsoever, except a few blooms that browned and dropped off.

The response was unbelievable and unmistakable. Within twenty-four hours the violets appeared to "perk up" and say "thank you." This was obvious to others not of the immediate household.

The plants were sprayed twice thereafter, at two week intervals, as a precaution, but the main response from the Endrin spraying came after the first spraying.

Of the sixty plants affected, all but a few recovered, and these had their crowns so badly damaged from the mites that they were discarded. end



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Or Tilt

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Specify color desired. Send check or money order; or C. O. D. immediate shipment. Satisfaction guaranteed. Circular on request.

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Dept. 1939

TOPEKA, KANSAS

GARDEN CLUB PROJECT

Mrs. John Sculley, Jr., St. James,
Long Island, New York

The director of St. Johnland, a home for the Aged, asked our Garden Club to try to interest their hospital patients in a house plant project.

We found most of the patients in wheel chairs, waiting for our first meeting in the solarium. We had brought gifts of geraniums, succulents and African violets — a plant for each person. First we talked on the care of each type of plant, and let the ladies make their selection. To our amazement, everyone wanted an African violet. I made a hurried trip back the next day with enough violets for all.

We have frequent informal meetings. We have shown them how to propagate, pot, divide and care for their plants. Each was originally given a different variety, and for Christmas many of them are exchanging baby plants that they, themselves, have grown from leaves.

While their strength and often their memories are limited, their interest in the violets is tremendous.

Seeing the miracle of nature at work — new plants forming from one leaf, growing and reaching bloom stage — has given these people a fascinating new interest that has helped to fill the long, idle days in the hospital.

Last week we had a lesson on grooming a plant for show, as we hope to have a small African violet show there in the spring.

Seeing the pleasure these plants have brought to the patients is a most rewarding experience.

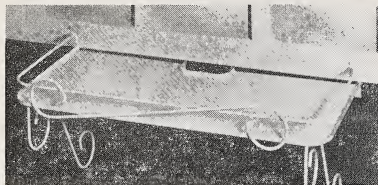
We were a little behind schedule last week with our meeting and when the matron called them for dinner, one dear old lady kept saying, "I would much rather work with my violets than go for dinner."

That remark alone more than repays us for the time and plants we donate. end

CARDBOARD COLLAR TO SUPPORT LEAVES

Plants that have become very droopy due to lack of water, sometimes can be greatly helped in their recovery if you will make a cardboard collar to support the leaves until they can "hold their own" again.

A paper plate can be cut in half, semicircles cut in each half, then these halfcircles are slipped under the foliage and rested on the edges of the pot, and then the foliage is arranged in its proper position. After the plant is watered, it should be supported by this collar until the leaves have regained their crispness. end



SELF-ATTACHING WINDOW PLANT SHELF

Attaches to sills or mid-window sash without interfering with operation of window. Sturdy legs rest against wall or window to support large display of many plants. Guaranteed leak proof and drip proof. Durable white baked enamel. 19" long x 3" wide. \$2.50 postpaid, 2 for \$4.75, 3 for \$6.95, 6 for \$12.95. 60-page illustrated catalog included tells low quantity prices unusual hard-to-find plant supplies. Write for free copy.

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#1 — Assorted colors, singles, doubles or mixed, labeled, 15 clumps \$4.00 P.P.
#2 — 15 clumps. \$5.00 P.P., your selection #1 and #2 from list of good and newer varieties. 4¢ stamp must accompany request for list.

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WINDOVER FLOWER POTS



THE MOST BEAUTIFUL RED CLAY FLOWER POTS MADE

Squatty		Our Customers Say, "The Best I have ever seen!"
3	in. 14 for \$2.20	Most sizes are in the lovely stepped design. Unequalled for quality. All have treated rims to protect stems and leaves of plants. Any shipping breakage replaced unless sent insured.
4	in. 10 for 2.20	
5	in. 6 for 2.20	
6	in. 4 for 2.20	
Semi-squatty		Clay Flower Pots in Color Green, red, yellow or white baked-on enamel. Following sizes only:
3	in. 14 for \$2.20	3" semi-squatty 10 for \$2.20
5	in. 6 for 2.20	4" squatty 8 for 2.20
5½	in. 5 for 2.20	Black Plastic Pot Saucers
6	in. 4 for 2.20	2½" 18 for \$1.70
Standard		3" 14 for \$1.80
1½	in. 40 for \$2.20	4" 10 for \$1.85
1¾	in. 36 for 2.20	
2	in. 30 for 2.20	
2¼	in. 24 for 2.20	
2½	in. 18 for 2.20	
3	in. 14 for 2.20	
4	in. 9 for 2.20	

LIFETIME WHITE PLASTIC POT LABELS, 4½" :
75 for \$1.00 100 for \$1.25 500 for \$5.50
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EVERYTHING POSTPAID EAST OF DENVER

If west of Denver, Colo. add 40¢ postage for each unit or set of pots or saucers ordered. Sorry, no C. O. D.'s please.

THE WINDOVER CO.

Box 3033-A Evansville, Indiana

PLASTIC GREENHOUSE

Recently much progress has been made in low cost plastic greenhouses for the home. It may be helpful, to those who are contemplating building or buying a greenhouse, to answer a few questions.

Strength and endurance are important points. Plastics (polyethylenes and vinyls) as thin as .002 inches have held up two feet of snow. Chicken wire as a reinforcement serves no purpose, and the movement of the plastic may wear a hole in it.

The most serious destructive factor is the summer sun. The plastic should be removed or protected. There is now a film, like paint, commercially available, that is said to be good for five years.

Most plastics now on the market transmit eighty or ninety percent of the light energy of the sun, comparable to good glass. Research indicates that best results are obtained when two layers of plastic are used with a one inch air space between, which acts as insulation and decreases heating costs. Actual measurement has shown that more light is transmitted through two layers than through a single layer.

Any good heating system will do, if properly installed, and managed: steam, hot water or hot air.

Ventilation is a most important part of greenhouse operation. Ample ventilation along the peak is preferred. If a plastic panel house is used, ventilation can be regulated by simply sliding down a panel. The plastic panel house is a modification of the old sash house, and it solves several problems. The panels can be removed and stored after cold weather has gone, preventing deterioration from the sun. Ventilation is very simple. An extra panel can be kept ready in case of an accident. end

pH -- ITS MEANING

Soils fall into three groups when tested for acidity: acid, neutral, and alkaline. To measure the acidity, the pH system is employed. This symbol simply denotes a system of numbers used as a scale for grading soils, similar to the Fahrenheit thermometer. It runs through three degrees of acidity to neutral and through two degrees of alkalinity. This provides a simple reference scale for the classification of soil according to the pH value, which knowledge is important in soil management. These are commercial systems by which soil may be tested.

A knowledge of the needs of a species of plants is necessary. Does it need an acid or alkaline soil? When the grower knows this, he can refer to a table to find the quantity of lime needed to adjust the acidity. end

STAR HOLLY Selections

Another important genetic achievement. Imagine the New Star Pink Flower with lovely fringed edges, and beautiful Holly foliage!

These and many other outstanding new varieties will be available to ship in rooted cuttings by late spring.

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BENCH STANDS (2)...\$2.95 ppd.

Bench stands accommodate 2 Grow-Lites, as shown

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A LASTING VIOLET FRIENDSHIP

PART I

Catherine Shepherd, Arlington, Virginia

I awoke very early one morning, and, as was my custom, picked up a magazine to read. It was back in March, 1951, and the magazine I picked up was *Gardening Illustrated*, to which I had subscribed for a long time. I had been growing African violets for just a short time, and was always looking for something about them. When I saw the name of a plant I did not know, I wanted it.

As I looked through the magazine I saw an African violet pictured with the name of Rothansted Lady, and it looked like a very nice plant. It was in the column "Letters to the Editor" and there was a letter about African violets signed by Mrs. Joy Hutson, 46 London Road, Luton, Beds., England. All during the day I kept thinking about that plant, and finally wrote to Mrs. Hutson. I do not remember what I wrote, but it must have been about the plants. I did not know then what a wonderful friendship would be built from that letter, but I have always been glad that I wrote it.

Mrs. Hutson was an avid grower of all kinds of plants, and letters flew across the seas very rapidly. I would like other growers to know about the friendship that developed as time went on. We will both try to tell you about the ups and downs that took place.

It was not very long before we decided that we would like to see these darling African violets growing on the window sills in Great Britain. We began to work for that end as we wanted to see the American varieties over there. They only had the blue flowered varieties in Great Britain at that time.

Although I had previously sent seeds, on May 22nd of that year I sent sixteen plants and thirty leaves on the Clipper. First, I had to take the plants to Washington, D. C., to have them inspected. There were papers to be filled out, and I was given papers that had to be sent with the plants. Not having done anything like that before, I had to depend on those in the Inspection House to do it right. Time went on and there was no word about the plants arriving. I called the Airlines, they investigated, and I was told a paper was missing. I contacted the Inspection House and they admitted that they had left one out. It was almost six weeks since I sent the package, and as a final resort I called the British Embassy. After I explained the situation, the Embassy arranged to have the plants released, and Mrs. Hutson finally received them. The most remarkable thing about it was that five plants were still living.

On October 20th of that year I sent another lot of plants, and they were delivered in fine form on October 25th.

All legal procedures were followed in sending the plants.

Thus the first year of this wonderful friendship drew nearer the end. I will let Mrs. Hutson take over from here.

PART II

Joy Hutson, Luton, Beds., England

It was a lucky day for me when Mrs. Catherine Shepherd put pen to paper and mentioned her delight at my writing an article about African violets that was published in one of our gardening books. When this letter was written and posted, its mission only then began, because the thought expressed had, in its message, something of the mind from which it sped, and that thought came to life and spread its influence on my life.

My joy knew no bounds when I received a letter from Catherine asking if I would like some leaves and plants of Saintpaulias. Letters flew backwards and forwards every other day, and soon it became apparent that I had in mind that which Catherine was anticipating and hoping for, to introduce the American varieties into Great Britain.

Almost immediately my life became centered around these plants; every now and then I was discouraged by various diseases, due to my lack of experience with these plants, but, when things seemed hopeless, I was reminded of a quotation, "There are no hopeless situations. There are only those who have grown hopeless about them." This good advice enabled me to carry on, all the more determined to make a success of them.

There were a great many disappointments when plants and leaves were held by the customs at this end. More often than not a form would be missing or an inspection ticket would go astray. I vividly recall when, in 1952, a large box of Saintpaulias was being held at the inspection office for nearly six weeks. It cost me a small fortune phoning several times a day to get information as to why the box was being held. Catherine had put so much into packing this box, not to mention the cost all round. When the box duly arrived, only three out of seventy-five plants were recognizable.

For the first year or so, nearly always something went wrong in transit. It would seem that both countries, or should I say the officers responsible, had different opinions as to the procedure when exporting or importing. The forms over there would not coincide with those

over here. As time passed, Catherine and I became well known to those concerned with these packages, and when, in the future, anything went wrong, everything was done to help us in our difficulties.

Over the years, my friendship with Catherine has helped to create a new world for me, for when one has been a keen gardener for thirty years, you can imagine what it meant in my being able to work alongside with Catherine to further the cause of the African violet in Great Britain, where the American varieties were unknown.

Although I can never hope to meet Catherine, a bond has been forged that could never be broken, a memory of a real and wonderful friendship. end

JUNE MAGAZINE NOTICE

The June Magazine will be late as it will be mailed out with the Members' Handbook.

TIMELY TIPS

Miriam Lightbourn, Bernardsville, N. J.

In order to obtain the full benefit of your fluorescent lights at all times, the tubes and light reflectors should occasionally be wiped with a damp cloth. If the dust film is oily or sooty, a little detergent on the cloth will help to remove this.

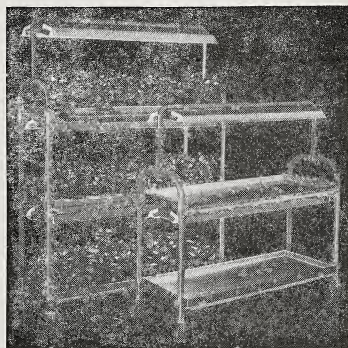
Sterile equipment is important in caring for your African violets. If you have had occasion to use a knife to cut into crown rot, it can easily be sterilized in solution of half Clorox and half water, before it is used on other plants.

Caution. An insecticide solution should always be freshly mixed when you wish to use it. Any excess solution should be disposed of and not stored. If only a few plants are to be sprayed, reduce the quantity of insecticide and water proportionately, so that only a small amount of spray is prepared. end

NOW-A New Aluminum

Flora Cart

For perfect, practical, and easy indoor gardening. Now the popular TUBE CRAFT FLORA CART is available in tubular aluminum construction, and at no additional cost. Made of a special heat-treated aluminum alloy, it is light weight, corrosion resisting, and sturdy. The large heavy duty 4" diameter rubber-tired ball bearing swivel casters make it easily moved even over heavy carpeting.



NEW TYPE FLUORESCENT FIXTURE

TUBE CRAFT also offers, for the first time, the brand new Combolite fluorescent fixture, designed especially for flower culture, combining both incandescent and fluorescent light, proved superior to either one used alone.

TUBE CRAFT is also currently offering several new and practical accessories of special interest to Flora Cart owners and indoor garden hobbyists.

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NOTE — The manufacturers of the popular Flora Cart are happy to again present a Flora Cart (Model CA2 complete unit) as an award at the National Convention to be held in Detroit, Michigan, April 16, 17, 18, 1959.

CLASS — Three specimen plants (1 true purple, 1 pink, and 1 white, any variety) scoring the highest points. Each plant must score at least 85 points. These plants are to be entered in the regular classes for true purples, pinks, and whites.

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- 1954 — Mrs. E. L. Perdue, Donaldson, Tennessee.
- 1955 — Rev. Harold L. Thompson, Birmingham, Michigan.
- 1956 — Mrs. L. A. Beck, St. Joseph, Missouri.
- 1957 — Mrs. J. R. Bush, Muncie, Kansas.
- 1958 — Mrs. Edward Casey, Rochester, New York

BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH

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Vallin's — Purple Frost, Purple Honey, Fringed Raspberry, Green Beads, Blushing Beauty, Pink Fire.

New introductions from Grangers, Madison Gardens, Lyons and Naomi Weeks.

Free description list

4¢ stamp appreciated

The following Clubs and Individuals contributed to the Research Fund this past year:

Bountiful African Violet Club, Windsor, Ont., Canada; Bean Creek Valley African Violet Club, Hudson, Michigan; East Huntington African Violet Society, Huntington, W. Virginia; G. J. Wicks, Nottingham, Notts., England; Des Moines African Violet Club, Des Moines, Iowa; Detroit African Violet Club, Detroit, Michigan; Neil Miller, Penns Grove, New Jersey; Elite Violet Club of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois; African Violet Society of Greater Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Beverly Hills African Violet Society, Huntington, W. Virginia; Oshkosh African Violet Society, Oshkosh, Wisconsin; Indianapolis African Violet Club, Indianapolis, Indiana; Pasadena Chapter African Violet Society, Pasadena, California; Los Angeles African Violet Society, Inglewood, California; African Violet Society of Long Beach, Lakewood, California; The Santa Monica Bay Chapter African Violet Society of America, Inc., Los Angeles, California; Inglewood Chapter African Violet Society of America, Inc., Inglewood, California; The San Pedro Chapter African Violet Society of America, Inc., San Pedro, California; South Bay African Violet Society, Redondo Beach, California; Pomona Valley Chapter African Violet Society of America, Inc., Whittier, California; African Violet Society of Bellflower, Long Beach, California; Viking African Violet Club, St. Louis, Missouri; The Gardenettes, Topeka Saintpaulia Society, Topeka, Kansas; Henry Peterson, Cincinnati, Ohio; Mrs. Elmer Ferris, Erie, Pennsylvania; Milwaukee County African Violet Society, Milwaukee, Wisconsin; High Point African Violet Society, High Point, North Carolina; Raleigh African Violet Society, Raleigh, North Carolina; Glendale Chapter African Violet Society of America, Inc., Glendale, California; Cedar Valley African Violet Club, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; The Lake County African Violet Society, Mentor, Ohio; Town & Country African Violet Club, Houston, Texas; Saintpaulia Society of Tacoma, Tacoma, Washington; Sheridan African Violet Club, Sheridan, Wyoming; Davenport African Violet Society, Davenport, Iowa; First African Violet Society of Muhlenberg County, Greenville, Kentucky; Highstown African Violet Club, Highstown, New Jersey; Rose 'Onna African Violet Club, Chicago, Illinois; Dainty Duchess African Violet Club, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Violeteers of Michigan City, Michigan City, Indiana; Glass City African Violet Club, Toledo, Ohio; Twilight Chapter African Violet Society of America, Inc., Plainsfield, New Jersey; Top O'Jersey African Violet Club, Johnsonburg, New Jersey; Chico African Violet Society, Chico, California; Central Connecticut Saintpaulia Club, New Britain, Connecticut; Jamestown African



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All-Aluminum weather-tight window greenhouse with no-draft ventilation in Summer! Perfect growing conditions. Beautifies home inside and out. Made to fit windows up to 41" x 71" high. Send outdoor width and height of wood or metal window frame plus width of trim boards. \$51.50 for windows to 36" wide; \$63.50 for largest. Small rebate on smaller sizes. Express charges collect. Each panel assembled. Buy glass locally — size sheet included. Guaranteed. Send check or money order, or write for free folder.

THE HOUSE PLANT CORNER

Box 914

Oxford, Maryland

Violet Club, Jamestown, New York; Battle Creek Chapter African Violet Society of America, Inc., Battle Creek, Michigan; Manhattan African Violet Society, Manhattan, Kansas; African Violet Society of Salem County, Elmer, New Jersey; Metropolitan African Violet Society, Peoria, Illinois; Dutchess African Violet Society, Harrow, Ont., Canada; Tonka Delights, Mound, Minnesota; Parma's First African Violet Society, Parma, Ohio; Buckeye Lake African Violet Society, Newark, Ohio; The African Violet Society of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; African Violet Society of East Bay, Berkeley, California; The African Violet Society of Rochester, Rochester, New York; First African Violet Society of Hammond, Hammond, Indiana; Racine African Violet Society, Racine, Wisconsin; Paradise Green Saintpaulia Club, Stratford, Connecticut; Upper Pinellas African Violet Society, Dunedin, Florida; Lansing Saintpaulianes, Lansing, Michigan; Queen City African Violet Club, Cincinnati, Ohio; Magic Valley Saintpaulia Club, Twin Falls, Idaho; East Huntington African Violet Society, Huntington, W. Virginia; Donelson African Violet Club, Donelson, Tennessee; Rancoas Valley African Violet Club, Riverton, New Jersey; Cumberland County African Violet Club, Millville, New Jersey; North Bay African Violet Society, Vallejo, California; First African Violet Society of Cary, Cary, North Carolina; Little Rock African Violet Society, Little Rock, Arkansas; DeGraff African Violet Society, DeGraff, Ohio; Columbus African Violet Society, Columbus, Ohio; The Triple Cities African Violet Society, Binghamton, New York; Tennessee Valley African Violet Club, Knoxville, Tennessee; The African Violet Society of Regina, Regina, Sask, Canada; Waukegan African Violet Society, Waukegan, Illinois; The African Violet Society of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky; Kewensis African Violet Society, Dayton, Ohio; Prima African Violet Club, Lockport, Illinois; Oshkosh African Violet Society, Oshkosh, Wisconsin; Friendly African Violet Society, Bremerton, Washington; Rosewood African Violet Society, Alton, Illinois; The African Violet Society of Washington, Washington, Pennsylvania; Seattle Saintpaulia Society, Seattle, Washington; Des Moines African Violet Club #1, Des Moines, Iowa; African Violet Society of San Francisco, San Francisco, California; Northern Hills African Violet Society, Cincinnati, Ohio; The African Violet Society of Canton, Canton, Ohio; African Violet Society of Sonoma County, Santa Rosa, California; The African Violet Society of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky; Beatrice African Violet Society, Beatrice, Nebraska; Capital City Saintpaulia Society, Sacramento, California; West Shore African Violet Society, Cleveland, Ohio; Mrs. Charles Miller, Tonganoxie, Kansas; Houston Saintpaulia Society, Houston, Texas; Schoharie Valley African Violet Society, Cobleskill, New York; African Violet Society of Bellflower, Bellflower, California; Treaty Towne African Violet Society of Indiana, Indiana, Pennsylvania; Siouxland African Violet Society, Sioux

City, Iowa; Kenosha County African Violet Society, Kenosha, Wisconsin; The Vi-Club of Detroit, Detroit, Michigan; First Halifax African Violet Society, Halifax, N. S., Canada; African Violet Society of Greater Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Friendly African Violet Club, South Bend, Indiana; Lawrence African Violet Society, Lawrence, Kansas; African Violet Society of Utah Chapter #1, Salt Lake City, Utah; Amethyst African Violet Club, Dayton, Ohio; African Violet Society of Pioneer Valley, Springfield, Massachusetts; Falcon Heights Hi-Loa African Violet Club, St. Paul, Minnesota; Baltimore West End African Violet Club, Baltimore, Maryland; Town & Country African Violet Society, Delaware, Ohio; African Violet Club of Trenton, Trenton, New Jersey; Dubonnet Saintpaulia Society, Cleveland, Ohio; Bergen County African Violet Society, West Englewood, New Jersey; Wachusett African Violet Society, Gardner, Massachusetts; Ohio State African Violet Society, Cleveland, Ohio; Cleveland Saintpaulia Society, Cleveland, Ohio; First African Violet Society of Shelby County, Shelbyville, Kentucky; Sunshine City African Violet Club, St. Petersburg, Florida; Fairview African Violet Society, Norfolk, Virginia; Tri-City African Violet Society, Piqua, Ohio; Utica African Violet Society, Utica, New York; Knights & Ladies African Violet Club, Robertson, Missouri; Omaha African Violet Club, Omaha, Nebraska; Berwyn Saintpaulia Society, Berwyn, Illinois.

end

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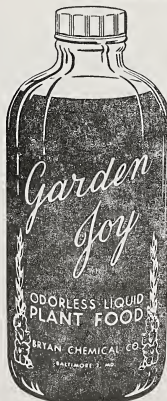
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● **THE SACRAMENTO AND CAPITAL CITY SAINTPAULIA SOCIETIES** of Sacramento, California, will hold their eighth annual show April 11-12, 1959, at the new Garden and Art Center, 33rd St. and McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, Calif. Mrs. Jo Roberts will serve as show chairman assisted by Mrs. Helen Gray as cochairman.

● **THE BALTIMORE AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB** will hold its annual African violet show March 20-21, 1959, at the Eastpoint Shopping Center Auditorium.

● **THE FIRST AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF CARY, NORTH CAROLINA**, will hold its show March 7-8, 1959, with the theme of "Violet Time in Cary." Show chairman will be Mrs. H. J. Waff, Jr.

● **THE OMAHA AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB** will hold its show March 14, 1959, at the Joslyn Art Museum with Mrs. E. H. Tuerk and Mrs. L. L. Rentschler as chairmen.

● **THE WICHITA SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY** will hold its show March 14-15, 1959, at the Coca Cola Show Room, Wichita, Kansas. Mrs. Black will serve as show chairman.

● **THE UTICA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** of Utica, New York, will hold its annual show on March 21-22, 1959, at the Hotel Utica, at Utica, New York.

● **THE AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB COUNCIL** of the Twin Cities Area will hold its ninth annual show at the Golden Rule Department Store in St. Paul, Minnesota, on April 2, 1959. The hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. The show is open to the public, free admission.

● **THE BI-COUNTY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB**, Illinois, will hold its first African violet show on Sunday, May 17, 1959, at the Galesburg Woman's Club Building, 516 No. Prairie Street, Galesburg, Illinois.

● **THE FIRST AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** of Hammond, Indiana, will hold their spring show on May 7th and 8th, 1959, in the basement of the Riverside Park Reformed Church, 175th and Jefferson Avenue, Hammond, Indiana.

SHOW News and Views

Deadline dates: For December issue September 1st; For March issue December 1st; For June issue March 1st; For September issue June 1st.

A few items you should know: No photos can be returned. Please do NOT SEND ME NEGATIVES. Please send no newspaper clippings. Show News must be confined to 200 words or less.

Eunice Fisher, Show Editor, Route 3, Box 284, Oshkosh, Wisconsin

● **THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** of Long Beach, California, will hold its annual African violet show on April 4-5, 1959, in Norway Hall, Seventh and Redondo Streets, Long Beach, California. Theme of the show will be "Woodland Fantasy." All entries must be made on April 3rd.

● **THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** of Springfield, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, plans to feature the Best 100 varieties selected by the National Society in its show to be held April 4, 1959. Mrs. John L. Ricker will be chairman for this show which will be held in the Sabold School, Springfield, Pennsylvania.

● **HIGH POINT AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** will stage its spring show April 5-6, 1959, at the H.P.T. and D. Railroad office on Jacob St., High Point, North Carolina.

● **THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETIES** of Louisville, Kentucky, Unit 1 and 2, will hold their show April 7-8, 1959, at the Shawnee Presbyterian Church, 101 South 44th St. Their theme will be "Every Month is Violet Time."

● **THE JAMESTOWN AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB'S** sixth annual show will be held April 11-12, 1959, in the Mongolian Room of the Hotel Jamestown, Jamestown, New York. Show chairmen will be Mrs. Vernon Burmeister and Mrs. Arthur Agnew.

● **THE BEATRICE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY**, Beatrice, Nebraska, will hold its seventh African violet show on April 11-12, 1959, at the City Auditorium.

● **THE DES MOINES AFRICAN VIOLET CLUBS #1 and #2**, are having their annual show April 11-12, 1959, at the Des Moines Waterworks Filter Building. Theme of the show will be "Violet Revue." Mrs. Roscoe Jones is show chairman, Mrs. Hoyt Naglor is cochairman.



A selection of ribbon winning arrangements at the Phoenix African Violet Club Show.



Arrangement: Pioneer African Violet Society, Norfolk, Virginia Show.



Shelby County Show, Mrs. Frank Doepel left, Mrs. G. J. Causey, sweepstakes winner, right.

At the Los Angeles African Violet Show is pictured, sari-clad, Mrs. Orlena Gehrigs receiving the popular vote cup for her theme arrangement "Taj Mahal, India" from Mrs. C. H. Harris.





Victor H. Ries presents the Stim-U-Plant award to Mary Suhr at the Ohio State African Violet Society Show, Toledo, Ohio, October 3, 4, 1958.



Attractive arrangement at High Point, North Carolina Show.

● **THE TRI-COUNTY AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** will hold its sixth annual show April 11-12, 1959, at Glens Falls, Grange Hall, Nelson Streets, Glens Falls, New York.

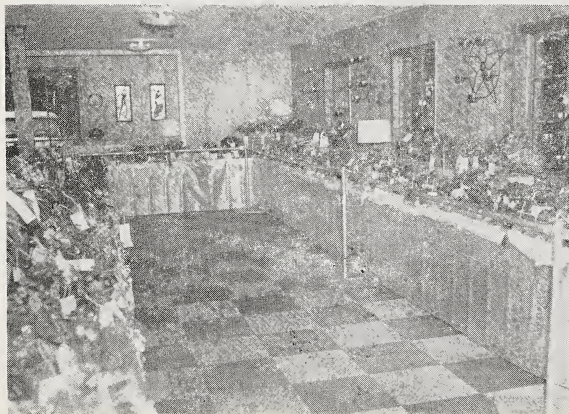
● **THE POMONA VALLEY AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** will hold its sixth annual show at the Fellowship Hall of the Church of the Brethren, 4th and "E" Streets, La Verne, California, April 21-22, 1959.

● **THE LONG ISLAND AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** will hold its fifth annual show April 25-26, 1959, in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Building, Freeport, Long Island. Theme of the show will be "Spring Harmony." Mrs. Homer Boltz will serve as show chairman; Mrs. John Hannan will be horticulture cochairman; and Mrs. J. Howard Poulson as arrangements cochairman.

● **MILWAUKEE COUNTY AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY**, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, will hold its annual show April 25-26, 1959, at Mitchell Park Pavilion. Mrs. George Truran will be show chairman and the theme will be "Violets Unlimited."

● **THE NORTH SHORE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** of Lynn, Massachusetts, will hold its fourth annual show on April 25, 1959, at American Legion Hall, Coburn Street, East Lynn, Massachusetts.

● **THE SIOUXLAND AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** will hold its eighth annual show April 26, 1959, at the Sioux City Municipal Auditorium. Theme of the show will be "Stars Over Africa" and will be carried out with an African setting on the stage displaying the new "Stars." Mrs. Homer Bradshaw is general chairman and Mrs. N. C. Slothower, chairman.



A partial view of the show held by Parma's First African Violet Society, Parma, Ohio.



Above, High Point African Violet Society Show, arrangement in driftwood.



Above, Baltimore West End African Violet Club theme of the show.



Below, arrangement class 44, High Point African Violet Society Show.



● **THE RALEIGH AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY**, Raleigh, North Carolina, will hold its fourth annual show April 10-11-12, 1959.

● **THE CEDAR VALLEY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB** of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, will hold its eighth annual show at the Public Library, May 1-2, 1959. The theme of the show will be "Showers of Violets." Mrs. J. Keith Noll is chairman.

● **THE METROPOLITAN ST. LOUIS COUNCIL OF AFRICAN VIOLET CLUBS** will hold their seventh annual African violet show at the Display House, Missouri Botanical Gardens, (Shaws Gardens) May 2-3, 1959, "Violet Fair" will be the theme and Mrs. Daniel Dohm will serve as general show chairman, Mrs. J. Fitzmorris as staging chairman.

● **THE ROCKFORD AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB** of Rockford, Illinois, will hold its eighth annual display May 2-3, 1959, at the new YWCA Building with the theme "Violets Then and Now." Mrs. Allen Rice and Mrs. Chas. Riley are cochairmen for the display.

● **THE RACINE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY**, of Racine, Wisconsin, will sponsor its fifth annual violet show May 16-17, 1959, at the Douglas Park Community Center, 2221 Douglas Avenue, Racine, Wisconsin. "Violet Splendor" will be the theme of the show. Mrs. Gerald Houdek will be show chairman.

● **MEMPHIS & SHELBY COUNTY AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** will hold its spring show April 11-12, 1959, at the National Guard Armory, Memphis, Tennessee. There will be no admission charge.

● **THE SACRAMENTO SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY**, Sacramento, California, will hold its eighth annual show on April 11th and 12th, 1959.

● **THE LOS ANGELES AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** will hold its ninth annual African violet show May 8th from 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. and May 9th from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Crenshaw Community-Youth Center, 3820 Santa Rosalia Drive, Los Angeles. Theme of the show will be "Melodies in Violets." Mrs. John Gutridge is show chairman.

● **THE COPPER CITY AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** of Rome, New York, will hold its fourth annual violet show at the Masonic Temple on April 25-26, 1959. Miss Etta Wittman will serve as show chairman.

● **THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** of Akron, Ohio, chose "Violet Gems" as the theme of their ninth annual show held October 13-14, 1958 at Polsky's Auditorium. Mrs. Ray Hazle served as show chairman. Queen of the show, a White Pride Supreme, was entered by Wm. Winters. Sweepstakes award when to J. J. Horvath. Mrs. Helen Pochurek, Mrs. Courtney and Mrs. Held served as judges.

● **THE QUEEN CITY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB** presented its sixth show October 17-18-19th, 1958, at Cincinnati's Art Museum in Eden Park. Mrs. A. B. Cooper was general chairman, Mrs. Mark Allgeier, cochairman. "Violets in Rhythm" was the theme of the display. Mrs. John Landaker captured the Ohio state award, a green ribbon. Judges were Mrs. Charles R. Stoehr, Greenwood, Indiana; Mrs. Gilbert Wolf, Dayton, Ohio; Mrs. John Esterline, Xenia, Ohio.

● **PARMA'S FIRST AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** held their first show October 17-18-19, 1958 at Garfield Floral Company, Independence, Ohio, with the theme "Violets for Any Occasion." Mrs. Henry Lessman, Jr. served as chairman. Sweepstakes award went to Mrs. Norman Drouineau. Mrs. Henry Lessman, Jr. won the silver bowl for queen of the show, a plant of Hill Music. She also won the Atlas trophy with this plant and her Pink Crest won a first prize as best plant introduced by Select Violet House. Mrs. Warren Olson won second with her plant of Gay Day. Mrs. Martin Kress had best arrangement for theme of the show and Mrs. Kenneth Whitney won a special award.

● **EAST SUBURBAN AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB** of East Detroit, Michigan, listed a great many winning specimen African violets among its eighty-nine entries at their fall show which was held November 2, 1958.

● **THE OHIO STATE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY'S** "Queen of the Show" award for 1958 was won by Mrs. Mary E. Suhr of Waterville, Ohio. Her prize was a handsome, burnished brass watering can donated by Stim-U-Plant Laboratories, Inc. of Columbus. Presenting the trophy to Mrs. Suhr is Victor H. Ries, Horticultural Consultant for Stim-U-Plant and well-known author, lecturer and gardening authority. (See photograph on page 70.) The Ohio State Convention and Show were held October 3-4 at the Commodore Perry Hotel in Toledo.



QUESTION BOX

Editor's note: Anne Tinari, Tinari Greenhouses, Bethayres, Pa., is your new Question Box Editor.

Q. In the article, "Making New Varieties With Radiation," by the Elderkins, Toledo, Ohio, "Earth Ray," the Chinese method was mentioned. Would you explain the Earth Ray method? This, to me, is one of the most interesting articles ever to appear in the magazine.

Mrs. K. A. Reid, Winston-Salem, N. C.

A. You have seen the experiment with a magnet and iron filings. This demonstrates that the magnetic rays of a magnet have a definite pattern. The earth is a huge magnet. Lines of force or rays are found closer together at the north and south poles. It appears that these rays are quite permanent. Some of them cover a large area, half a mile or more in diameter, while others are an inch or less in diameter. In the northern states, "Earth rays" have been found fifty feet apart; in the southern states, they might be miles apart.

Living cells exposed to this form of radiation will mutate. A portable radio will pick up a lot of static when placed over one of these lines of force. Cats like to sleep where they can feel this radiation and dogs refuse to stay there (check these spots with a portable radio and you will find you will get static directly over the ray). Some people are quite sensitive to this form of radiation. If an "Earth ray" passes through their bed they cannot sleep, but if they move their bed a few feet they have no trouble.

You can kill a lot of African violet leaves learning how to make mutations over an "Earth ray" so we suggest that you experiment with expendable varieties first. Some varieties are quite easily killed — Gilt Edge, Ada Magill and others.

Mutations on leaf cuttings of African violets caused by radiation come in pairs. One of these twins will be up the scale toward yellow and its sister on the same leaf will be down toward blue. A pink can give you a blue and a yellow on the same leaf, but it usually takes two or three generations to get a yellow that does not fade. First you get a variety with traces of anthoxanthin (the yellow chemical) in the blossom. Those blossoms will have an enzyme or digestive fluid that turns the yellow chemical into sugar either before or soon after the blossom opens. A radiated leaf from one of these varie-

ties gives you a pair of mutations, perhaps one will be almost blue and its twin sister will open yellow and hold its color for a few days before the yellow fades. The third generation should give you a yellow that does not fade, because there is no enzyme in the blossom.

When we hybridize two varieties with traces of anthoxanthins in the blossoms, we can reasonably expect to get seedlings with more of this yellow chemical, but we also get more of the enzyme. It appears that the only way to get rid of the enzyme is to give the chromosomes a jolt with energy strong enough to make the plant mutate.

There is a large family of chemicals called DNA or deoxyribonucleic acid, found in the genes of plants and animals. If we bombard a hydrogen atom with energy, it can be forced up the scale and turned into helium. When we bombard the genes of an African violet with energy, this DNA is changed, probably during mitosis, so one cell will have DNA up the scale above the mother variety and its twin sister will be down the scale below the mother variety. The arrangement of the atoms in a molecule of DNA determines the characteristics of the "unborn" plant. (Answered by Mr. Elderkin.)

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NEW AFFILIATED CHAPTERS

Maxine Wangberg, 1400 North 118th Street, Wauwatosa 13, Wisconsin

SPARKLING WATER AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, CONNECTICUT, Mrs. Margaret Berggren, president, 1722 Boston Post Road, Milford, Connecticut.

CAPITAL CITY AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, ILLINOIS, Mrs. George Woelflin, president, 822 N. Raynor Ave., Joliet, Illinois.

NUTMEG AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, CONNECTICUT, Mrs. Leon Osborne, president, Lambert Road, Orange, Connecticut.

REBECCA LEFLORE AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, MISSISSIPPI, P. T. Smith, Jr., president, 306 McLeMore Street, Greenwood, Mississippi.

SANTA CLARA VALLEY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, CALIFORNIA, Minnie Hall, president, 3067 Moorpark Avenue, San Jose, California.

THE GREAT SOUTH BAY AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK, Mrs. Harvey Hill, president, Dayton Avenue, Manorville, L. I., New York.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, CALIFORNIA, Mrs. Violet Hutchins, president, 9615 Burnet Avenue, Sepulveda, California.

FORT VANCOUVER AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, WASHINGTON, Mrs. William Huttel, president, 2413 E. 28th, Vancouver, Washington.

Dear Affiliated Chapter Members:

As you read this issue of the Magazine, it will be nearly time for the National Convention to be held in Detroit, Michigan. Thoughts of the Convention bring to mind once again the scheduled workshop meetings that are to be an active part of future Conventions. These workshops are planned as informal meetings to give us an opportunity to assist you with any problems that you may have, and to become better acquainted with the club officers and members with whom we work in the Affiliated Chapters. If you have any problems or questions, I would appreciate it if you will attend the workshop meetings, or write me concerning them if you are unable to attend, and I will be happy to bring them before those attending the meeting.

It will soon be time for a great many local shows. We have prepared a list of registered varieties that I shall include with all requests for the National Ribbon Awards. A list of varieties registered after the list was published may be prepared from issues of the African Violet Magazine. May I suggest that the registration or entries committee be supplied with a copy of this list in order that entries for the National Awards may be checked at the time they are entered rather than at the time they are judged. Judges must be members in good standing in the African Violet Society of America, Inc., and hold up-to-date judging cards in the National Society, three judges being required for these entries. The rules governing the National Awards must be carefully followed and abided by.

Please send all National dues for members of Affiliated Chapters to me. Sending such dues to the Knoxville office delays the membership, as they have to be forwarded to me, and this makes an extra burden on those who open the mail at this office.

I am looking forward to meeting many of you at the coming Convention.

Cordially,
Maxine Wangberg

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ARE WE NEGLECTING SAINTPAULIA GROTEI?

Thomas H. Plummer, Lafayette, Indiana

This note reflects just one grower's personal opinion.

The trailing species, *S. Grotei*, is well known to most African violet growers. Yet it has not gained much prominence since first being introduced. This is to be expected. The native species plant is not very showy — having blue flowers — and can become large and bulky to handle. It also needs someplace where its trailing habit can be expressed naturally. Lately, the inheritance of the full trailing habit is not a simple pair of genes.

One might logically ask as to why it should be included in a breeding program. Several reasons can be expressed here. It took many years to get the profusion of colors and foliage types that we have in *S. ionantha*. Preliminary crosses using *S. Grotei* that do not yield a desired type should not be termed a failure. The inexperienced should realize that no genetic character is lost. A breeder needs only to obtain the proper combination for the character to be expressed. Trailing varieties in the rainbow of colors that we have today would be a very valued addition to a violet collection and could serve to accent it.

There is another character inherent in *S. Grotei* that should not be overlooked. People who handle the plant are impressed by the flexibility of the leaves. The leaves can actually be twisted without breaking. This trait is a welcome one to try to incorporate into new varieties. At present we are incorporating this trait into a new line that is being bred as a shipping violet. In it we hope to develop the basic African violet flower colors on a flexible plant that can be shipped in quantity to stores and arrive there in good condition. end

SUMMER BLOOMING

Priscilla Alden Hutchens, Rochester, N. Y.

With the first call of summer my reaction to summer blooming is — would I could put all my African violets out to pasture! However, growing under fluorescent lights the plants are not affected by the seasonal shade as are those in the windows. The small plants and seedlings thrive in summer and the leaf cuttings grow merrily on. My older plants get a bit weary, so that it is a good excuse to cull them out.

Looking over the shelves I find Christmas Rose, Double Christmas Rose, Black Magic, Double Rose of Sharon, Pink Star, Strike-Me-Pink, Kimberly, Harvest Moon, Olivia, Mayflower, Pink Fascination and many more in full bloom.

Summer, winter, spring or fall there seems no rest period for me or the violets. end

RICHTER'S 1959 RELEASES

WEDGEWOOD—Luscious light blue double, with excellent black-green foliage. Simply stunning. (Limit 1 to order)

LUCKY STREAK—Frilled blossoms - splashed, streaked and spotted - no two blooms alike. Beautiful dark frilly foliage.

TEA ROSE—Something a little different! The bud is shaped like a rose bud, and opens into a fully double rose-shaped bloom. Vibrant pink, lovely tailored foliage.

CRINOLINE—Frilled pink, with darker pink eye. Beautiful frilled foliage. Very attractive.

BLAZE—Frilled red-pink, frilly foliage. Brilliant color.

FIFI—The largest of the frilled pink blooms. Soft, clear color, beautiful foliage.

Above group \$1.25 each, rooted cuttings \$1.00 each.

ALABASTER—A really good double white, fully double, with a green tinge on the fresh blooms. Good tailored foliage.

WINTER KING—Huge pure white single, with no hint of color in the bloom. Big blooms, and lots of them.

WITCHCRAFT—Lavender double, with splashes of deeper color through the bloom. Tailored foliage.

SUNDAY MORN—Fully double pink, always loaded with big blooms.

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Now that the excitement of the holiday season is well behind us, we are all enjoying another magnificent burst of blooms from our plants. In these dark days of winter when there is practically no color anywhere else, our homes and greenhouses look like a fairyland of gay and happy colors and flower forms.

Occasionally I receive letters asking for ideas for ways for clubs to make money, usually on a small scale. Not long ago I received such a request and I replied with a few ideas that I had received from other clubs and year books. The president of this club was kind enough to advise me later how their club had gone about raising money and I am going to pass it on to you. This is the San Fernando Valley African Violet Society, and she writes "... what we did to raise money for rent and incidentals, and it worked 100%, was that we got a lot of little plants donated, then sold 6 red tickets for \$1.00 and gave a white ticket extra, making 7 tickets in all for \$1.00. Then we called the white tickets first and gave first pick to first call, everybody got a nice violet worth about \$1.00. Then we called red tickets until the violets were gone." This club is just getting organized, so you see they are well on their way.

From the Violeteers, Michigan City, Indiana (23 members, organized in 1954), comes a suggestion for a program topic "My Method with Vermiculite." This could be worked out with three club members, each either discussing or demonstrating her use of vermiculite in plant growing. And it might be well to remember that not everyone likes this project, so one of the ladies might be someone who could point out its disadvantages as the others show its good points.

Des Moines African Violet Club No. 1 (25 members, organized 1952) had in their recent year book a program listed on "Show Plants, Show Procedure, Color Classes, Judges and Judging." This covers a tremendous amount of ground, and I personally would suggest that this be broken down into two or more sections and perhaps presented as programs for more than one meeting. But any way you decide to handle it, it is certainly a worthy program topic, and one which should prove of interest to nearly everyone. Even people who are not involved in every phase of this topic should and no doubt will find this helpful and stimulating as well as informative.

"Selection of Better Blooming Varieties" was a good program topic from the Sioux Falls Saintpaulia Society, Sioux Falls, S. D. (organized in 1954, 18 members). It is a common pitfall of violet growing that we all come into possession

of varieties that simply do not perform well in our area. They may do well somewhere else, but for a great many people in a particular area they do not perform as the growers have a right to expect. Also of course, every locality seems to have its own particular widely-grown varieties that are not so popular elsewhere. Of course, we must admit that there are varieties on the market that are not performing as we have a right to insist they do. Thus, I feel that a consideration, both by the individual and the club, as to what are the better blooming varieties is something that should be done more often. The committee of the National Society headed by Mrs. Quixie Nichols and composed of some very reliable and widely experienced people (Buyer's Guide Committee) has done a wonderful job of growing and evaluating many plants, and their reports which are found in the African Violet Magazine should prove to be a good yardstick for a program of this type. However, a good deal of the information should come from the clubs' members as a whole. By comparing notes on the best blooming varieties of each member (you might limit it to five for time's sake) you may be able to get some pointers on why some of these same varieties are not doing so well for you as they are for others in your group.

The new slide program being offered this issue is "Could You Tell Me, Please," and is the slide program we have worked and hoped for for so long. It is directed primarily to the newer growers and as a review to the older growers. It will show how to groom plants, removing suckers, how to divide plants, how to pot plants, etc. Also of course it is time to begin making your Club reservations for the 1959 Detroit Convention slides which should be available in July 1959. This is several months earlier than we usually try to reserve them, but I hope that this will allow a few more groups to view them during the summer months.

There are one or two things that perhaps should be clarified since there seems to be so much confusion relating to them. One is that the only slide program group now available to individual members is the Kaleidoscope 1958 group. This is the 25 slide group of new varieties. This has been so well received that we feel justified in planning to continue it with an issue of 1959. Secondly, the Librarian must have club meeting dates in order to make reservations for it is impossible to handle as many reservations as we do and operate on the very close schedule necessary. Therefore, when someone writes that they want slides for March and gives no date, I am helpless to make a reservation until further correspondence has taken place. The correspondence load is terrific and please understand that I love this work in every respect, but if club names, meeting dates (a second or third choice of dates is many times helpful if that is possible from your program planning standpoint)

Continued next page

A GOOD SPRAY

Dixie Fischer, Flushing, New York

One of the most satisfactory sprays I have found is Improved Isotox Garden Spray M. The M is for Malathion. It is an economical spray too, as the approximate price is less than \$2.00 per eight ounce bottle.

I have used this spray in the apartment, with adequate ventilation, and have suffered no ill effects from it. Fortunately, everything that creeps and crawls on the African violets does suffer ill effects. They just drop dead!

This spray mixes quickly and easily with water, and, if kept agitated in the bottle during spraying, it will not spot the foliage or flowers of the plants.

The timing of the spraying is the important thing. The most successful procedure is to secure an efficient sprayer, and then spray faithfully once every four days. Yes, I know all of the articles say once every seven days, but with an infestation (mite in particular) the four day program is essential.

Improved Isotox Garden Spray M is also an excellent preventive spray. end

YOUR LIBRARY continued

slide program selections (please give three as I alternate) and the slide fee of \$1.00 is enclosed with your first request, it will be appreciated more than you know and will also help the Librarian to give you better service by allowing more time for planning and working out new programs. The last point I want to make is that the Library does not sell any materials—all of them are on a rental basis.

Let me thank each of you for the wonderful co-operation you have given the Library and are continuing to give. It is very seldom indeed that a slide program is returned late or slides misplaced, and almost invariably the missing slides are returned with a sweet note of apology. All of this works toward making a good service for everyone and it is appreciated.

The Library is always looking for ideas as to what types of slide programs, program packets, etc., that the clubs want and need. I would appreciate it if at your next club meeting you would discuss this for a few minutes and let me know your suggestions as to program topics (slides and written materials) criticisms and suggestions for improvement. Do let me hear from you with comments and suggestions—they are always welcome and we need them. A postcard will do. end

PACKING LEAVES TO PREVENT BREAKAGE

Marie Dannemiller, Barberton, Ohio

Spooned and frilled leaves are very difficult to pack for mailing as they crack so easily. I have even received some which had the outer edges meeting above the midrib.

To prevent this cracking and bruising, shred some tissue paper and fill the spooned leaf or tuck it under and over the frilled leaf, so that each is protected.

When placing the envelopes in the box for mailing, place the shredded tissue paper between the envelopes so that they cannot move.

Avoid using foil, for it cuts the tender tissues.

To make certain your package will get to its destination safely and quickly, use a sturdy box; or if a light weight box is used, encase it in cardboard; and send the package by special delivery airmail. end

"NATURE'S" Way African Violet Mix

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THE NEWEST AND OLDER VARIETIES

Write for list

Freshly cut leaves

Rooted leaves with small plantlets
Plan a trip to see the lovely display of African violets. Plants for sale at greenhouse 50¢ — \$1.00 — \$1.50.

Highway U.S. No. 11

AN EXPERIMENT WITH GIBBERELIC ACID

Viola M. Drake, Rockford, Michigan

My interest in gibberellic acid was first aroused by an article in one of the farm journals; then, in the spring, our Michigan State College at East Lansing had an article in our local paper about this wonderful solution. It seemed that it was what I had been wishing for for a long time so I began my experiment in April, 1957. I bought the brand sold as Plant Shoot; there are many on the market today which are less costly and easier to use.

On April 10, 1957, I took ten old violets that I had about decided to discard, and one old White Lady that had met with an accident and was nothing but a stem with a few small leaves on top. I reasoned that if I could do anything with these, it would take a wonder drug of some kind. I also had some gloxinia seedlings, Buell's hybrids, coming on and these were used also.

First, I took the old plants and stripped them down to a nice crown and a half inch of straight stalk, dusted them with a mixture of one part Fermate to nine parts sulphur, then laid them aside to heal while I prepared the leaves I would be using. These I dusted with the same mixture, leaving about one and one-half inch stem, and they too were laid aside to heal. Next, I prepared two flats, one with a rooting medium of equal parts of coarse sand and peat moss, and to the other I added an equal part of vermiculite. These were moistened with warm water and let stand for a half hour. The plants were planted up to the first row of leaves in the peat and sand and the leaves were put in the other flat with

the vermiculite; then all were sprayed with the gibberellic acid and put in the north side of the greenhouse.

I left them in this exposure until I noticed signs of growth, which was in exactly ten days. They were then removed to the east side and kept moist. My greenhouse does not have a glass roof, so through their stay in this location they had light from all directions, as they were about three feet from the window.

At this time, since there were signs of growth in the plants, they were given a feeding of Plant Marvel at half strength. One plant, a Blue Girl, budded in the flat. I did not feel potting was in order yet so let it bloom; the bloom was not perfect. The White Lady was sprayed and put in the east window. It grew like mad but something later happened that is one of the things I have not yet solved — it has a narrow yellow edge around the leaf. The bloom is beautiful, large and glistening, but the leaf edge defies all so far; it even happens in the north window in our home. I have given it another shot to see what happens. I am also rooting some of the leaves to see what happens.

On June first, I potted four of the plants from the flat, two Blue Girls, one Pink Girl and a Rose 'Onna Maple. The Blue Girl that bloomed in the flat was budded again, but I removed the buds to let the plant become established first. The next blossoms on this plant were beautiful, huge and with large, yellow stamens against the purple. The leaves are larger, with a nice white center. The other Blue Girl was not greatly changed. Pink Girl is still small but the blossom is darker, with a real dark center. Rose 'Onna Maple did not change greatly, except it does have longer petioles, which is an advantage — it has such beautiful foliage anyway, and the longer stems show it off better.



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If not available in your favourite store, please write to: J. Spoutz, African Violet Greenhouses, 34365 Moravian Drive, Fraser (Mich.) Davis Violet House, 2113 South Ave, Middleton (Wisc.) G. J. Zwierp, 4106 Goebel Ave. Palo Alto. (Calif.)
If distributors like to join us, please contact Pokon-Naarden-Holland

The first week of September 1957, I finished potting the rest of the plants in the flat. The noted results on these are as follows: Yellow Brown Girl has much darker leaves but they too have the yellow edge. The bloom has a darker brown center, is larger, and still cupped. Mentor Boy is one that was not improved except that it has a much larger blossom. The leaves are much too long and tend to droop. Sailor Girl has much larger blossoms with no color change in the bloom, but the leaves are huge and tend to curl under and they have a nice white spot that is rayed out toward the edge. Easter Egg is larger in both bloom and leaf but the blossom has no white in it at all and is more like Fantasy. Sunrise is larger, with no color change either in bloom or leaf. Double Delight is the winner as far as I am concerned. The leaves and flowers are both larger but without the added length in leaf or stem, and the bloom is held well above the plant with about ten blossoms to a stem.

The leaves did not behave out of the ordinary. Some of them grew in size but I have had that happen before gibberellic acid. I did learn something of real value in handling the little plantlets. If they are given the gibberellic acid about a week after being potted from the flat, they will grow faster and be sturdier, and the blooms will be nice and big even in a two inch pot. I found it true that they do use more light and food. I have never given more than one treatment to any of these.

The gloxinia seedlings were treated right in the flat as soon as they were two inches across. I also fed them at this time with Atlas Fish Emulsion at half strength. I think it would be a mistake to treat and not feed. I had, and still do have, some gorgeous gloxinias from these babies. I am going to try treating the bulbs before planting and see what happens.

I have but two of the plants I used in the experiment. The rest were sold, but I do have leaves from them and some small plants. I am wondering what another treatment would do to these. I believe it best to treat some and see what happens, but I do believe that too much is what causes the malformation and loss of plants one hears about.

I have now used gibberellic acid for a year and a half on my small plantlets and have had such good results. Of course, White Lady and Yellow Brown Girl still have me puzzled, but I will keep working on them and maybe find the solution yet. Who knows? end

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THE LOCAL TOUCH

Ted Schall, Atlantic City Press, Atlantic City,
New Jersey

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We came across an item yesterday all the way from South Africa that has a decided local flavor. Hortense Dean, a florist from Little Silver, New Jersey, and widely traveled — having visited Europe, Japan and just recently South Africa — was addressing an assemblage of florists from all over the East at a Florist Demonstration in Philadelphia. Commenting on her South Africa trip, she told of having visited a hospital in Johannesburg where she was given a tour by the director of the hospital. Reaching the botanical gardens which are used for therapy, the director very proudly showed her a gorgeous array of African violets, stating that they were the finest in all Africa. He said to his visitor, "Don't you come from New Jersey" and to an affirmative reply, asked if she was familiar with Fischer Flower's Linwood Greenhouses. She replied "Yes" and the hospital director then informed her that these "finest in all Africa" African violets had been shipped to him from Fischer's.

Sounds a little like selling ice boxes to the Eskimos — but there they were, African violets in Africa, grown in Linwood by Charles Fischer. end

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SUMMER BLOOMERS

Lela Reichert, Omaha, Nebraska

My best summer bloomers are many in number, but they all are plants that never stop blooming for me.

Red Beauty is an old variety that I have had for eight years, and it has never been without bloom in all that time. It is a huge and beautiful plant.

Others that are a mass of color all summer long, in fact all year long, are:

Pink Joy
Hawaiian Skies
Hawaiian Sunset
Pink Vivacious
Congo King
Pink Mist
Double Black Cherry
Cream Delight
Double Peach Blossom
Lavender Jewel
Hawaiian Sands
Fancy Frills
Pink Satin
Mantilla
Mary Thompson

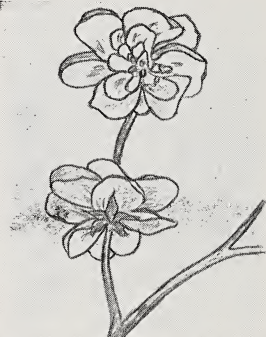
end

WHAT NEXT?

Mrs. Fred W. Hoffman, Muscatine, Iowa

Two years ago I started a leaf from Azure Beauty, a blue and white double. This produced four plants, three of which came true, and the fourth one is all blue with darker red-backed foliage in the center of the plant. This blue double is one of my favorites.

I have had many plants that get two flower stems per leaf, and some with two double blossoms growing together on the tip of the stem, but this blue double is the first plant I have had that blooms like this:



Have had three stems on the plant and each had one blossom like this picture. The main stem of one had nine other blossoms, and the two other stems each had five blossoms in addition to this tiered one.

The top stem is from one-half to one inch long, and it grows from the center of the lower blossom. There is no pollen on the lower blossom, but the top blossom has pollen.

I have taken off the stems with the tiered blossoms and am trying to press them in a book, just in case it doesn't produce more tiered blossoms.

Now it is producing still another kind of blossom, like this:



The green stems from the center of the blossoms are very thin, from one-half to three-quarters inches long, with one full sized petal on each stem.

Does anyone else have a plant that cuts so many capers?

end

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FOLIAR FEEDING PREVENTS BUNCHING OF LEAVES

Mrs. F. Wade, London, England

Since my last story in the March number of the Magazine, I have been nursing some leaf cutting plantlets of Pink Puff, Rose Wing, Bedford Beauty, Silver Tip and Pandora. These are now in the squat size transparent pots and are growing well.

I wonder if I have found the answer to prevent the bunching up of leaves? All are planted in J. Innes No. 2 Compost. Rose Wing started to get a bit bunchy, so I wrote to a firm that advertises a Folia Feed for pot plants, asking them if it would be suitable for African violets. They wrote back saying I could safely use it for my plants. I purchased a trial pack but I only used it at half the strength they advised and only sprayed the top of the leaf, not underneath (which they advised). I thought I would be careful when using something new, "better to be safe than sorry."

In about two weeks the change in Rose Wing was perfect, a nice round of leaves with smaller leaves in the centre. The leaf stem is not long in comparison to the size of the leaf, here is a total absence of brittle leaves but none of the leaves are flabby and all are a very good green colour.

The Folia Feed in the early stages of the plant's life seems to cause it to grow outwards instead of upwards. The Folia Feed for pot plants is advised about every four weeks, so I shall use it on the plantlets that are coming along from my last setting of leaves from Mr. Gandy early this season. They are beginning to come through, after being potted up and rooted in Verigrow (your form of vermiculite).

All the plants have responded well, so the secret seems to be, start whilst the plant is young, encourage it to grow outward instead of upward by Folia Feeding, using the feed at half strength, thus keeping the stem to the size of the leaf. end

A TRICK WORTH TRYING

Mildred Bishop, South Bend, Indiana

For some of the girl type foliage that persists in bunching and growing upright, try placing the plant in a strong light (not in sunlight) and set the pot on a mirror. Watch the leaves flatten out.

Old mirrors may be bought cheaply at used furniture dealers, Salvation Army stores or Good-Will stores, if you do not already have one. end



Left to right, Nelle Berst, Dorothy Gray, Priscilla Landaker, Myrtle Radtke looking at the beautiful plants growing under benches at Granger Gardens. Below: plants they saw.



AFRICAN VIOLETS FLOURISH

Myrtle Radtke, Cincinnati, Ohio

Our beloved African violets are entirely and completely unpredictable! We plant them in a balanced mixture which we sterilize; we give them the best windows in the house, or put them under fluorescent tubes at a measured distance that has been determined scientifically; we water them; and we fertilize them. Yet, sometimes some of us are not as successful as we would like to be, and some, from what we hear on every side, are not successful at all.

When we visited Granger Gardens, the lovely greenhouses of Grace Eyerdom and her fine family, we saw the most gorgeous, large plants covered with huge blooms, growing entirely on their own underneath the benches! The sight of these volunteers under practically all of their benches is breath-taking, and almost equals the beauty of the lovely plants on the benches.

Don't try to tell the people at Granger Gardens that African violets are difficult to grow! end

ANNUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The annual Board of Directors meeting of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., was held on Wednesday afternoon at 1:15 P.M., April 23, 1958, in the Sheraton Room of the Sheraton Hotel, Rochester, New York, with the President, William B. Carter presiding.

Roll call was answered by the following members: —
President..... William B. Carter

1st Vice-Pres.....	H. G. Harvey
2nd Vice-Pres.....	Mrs. Jas. B. Carey
Recording Sec'y.....	Mrs. Gilbert D. Wolf
Corresponding Sec'y.....	Joseph D. Schulz
Treasurer.....	Mrs. Arthur Radtke
Past President.....	Floyd L. Johnson
Directors.....	Lewis Cook
	Mrs. H. W. Martin
	Mrs. E. E. Thompson
	Mrs. Jack Yakie
	Albert Buell
	Mrs. Harold Baker

Chairmen of Standing Committees.....	Mrs. Z. C. Layson
	Mrs. Ralph Berst
	Mrs. E. Pearl Turner
	Mrs. Constance Hansen
	Dr. Charles Fischer
Parliamentarian.....	Mrs. Rene Edmondson

The minutes of the last annual Board of Directors meetings held in Cincinnati, Ohio, on Wednesday afternoon April 3, 1957, Wednesday evening April 3, 1957, and Saturday afternoon April 6, 1957, were read by the Secretary. Mrs. James Carey requested the minutes be corrected to read that the \$600.00 advance for the Rochester convention, be changed to read Convention and Show. There being no other corrections or objections, the minutes were approved as corrected. The Auditor's Report was read by the Treasurer, Mrs. Arthur Radtke. Joseph D. Schulz moved that this report be accepted. Seconded by Floyd L. Johnson. Motion carried.

The President called for Committee Reports.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY — Mrs. Robert O. Wright, absent, her report was read by the Secretary, which stated that she mailed out in March a total of 14,540 copies of the magazine. We have 114 Commercial Memberships. H. G. Harvey moved that we accept her report. Seconded by Mrs. Jack Yakie. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY, Joseph Schulz, was asked if he had anything to report at this time and he replied in the negative.

AWARDS COMMITTEE — Mrs. Z. C. Layson, Chairman, reported that her report was incomplete at this time and would remain so until after the Friday night banquet, however, she would mail her report to the Secretary after the convention.

BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH — Mrs. Ralph Berst, Chairman. \$1801.11 was received from January 1, 1957, through April 20, 1958. Number of clubs contributing were 119 and letters mailed were 370. Her report was submitted to the Secretary showing the amounts and names of all contributors. A vote of thanks was extended to Mrs. Berst for her untiring efforts to collect this amount of money, which showed that she had devoted many long hours to this great work. Mrs. Constance Hansen moved that we accept this fine report. Seconded by Floyd L. Johnson. Motion carried.

SHOW PREPARATION AND JUDGING SCHOOLS — Mrs. James B. Carey, Chairman, reported that there were Judging Schools held in Scotia, New York; Norwalk, Conn.; Atlanta, Georgia; Knoxville, Tenn.; Florence, Ala.; Des Moines, Iowa; Cincinnati, Ohio, Convention class; Verona, New York; Fanwood, New Jersey; Yardley, Pennsylvania; and Pensacola, Florida, and a total of 149 judges qualified during the year. That there were a total of 147 entries at the Cincinnati convention. Mrs. Jack Yakie moved that we accept her report. Seconded by Mrs. Pearl Turner. Motion carried.

LIBRARIAN — Mrs. Jack Yakie, Chairman, reported that \$365.30 of the appropriation of \$400.00 that the Library received in April 1957 had been spent and that the committee had turned over to the Treasurer \$199.70, after postage on the mailing of the Library materials had been deducted. Thus it had cost the Society \$165.60 net for service to the members. For the \$165.60 that the Library actually cost the Society for 1957-1958, we obtained two (2) sets of the 1957 convention slides numbering eighty (80) slides each (160) and the following sets: — Potpourri 70; Magic Carpet 70; Seven League Boots 70; North of the Border 50; Canadian Visit 50; Arrangements Featuring African Violets 70; we also obtained slides to add to already existing groups that were somewhat short, or to begin new groups on which we are still working. The slides in these last two categories number well over 100. Mrs. Ralph Berst moved that we accept her report. Seconded by H. G. Harvey. Motion carried.

OFFICIAL PIN — Mrs. E. Pearl Turner, Chairman, reported a total of 156 pins sold during the period from April 4, 1957 to April 17, 1958. Joseph Schulz moved that we accept her report. Seconded by Floyd L. Johnson. Motion carried.

ROOTED CUTTINGS 50¢
(with plantlets)

SMALL PLANTS 50¢

FRESH CUT LEAVES 25¢

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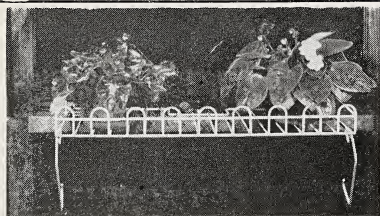
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We are also headquarters for LIFETIME white plastic markers, Gibberellic Acid, A. V. soil mix, Protectotape, Identotabs, Wire tables, fluorescent lights and other supplies for growing African violets. Free price list.

METAL SIGNS THAT SHINE AT NIGHT — Many attractive styles — Complete catalog free.

8 tablets Gibberellin plus plastic spray bottle \$1.40. Extra packet of 8 tablets, \$1.00.

HARVEY J. RIDGE

1126 Arthur St. Dept. M92 Wausau, Wis.

EDITOR OF PUBLICATIONS — Mrs. Robert O. Wright, Editor, absent, her report was read by the Secretary, which stated — "The pink sheet insert, as suggested by our President, William B. Carter, has been most beneficial, as an accommodation to our membership and in securing new members. The Ten Year Cumulative Index has been prepared in three sections by subject, authors, and title. It is being printed for distribution. Due to the late date that the convention is being held, the June issue of the African Violet Magazine will not carry complete convention information. A color chart is badly needed by the Society and it is hoped that one will be considered. Charles Fischer has investigated and has some fine ideas on this subject. The Handbook will be mailed out with the June magazine." Mrs. James Carey moved we accept this report. Seconded by Mrs. Pearl Turner. Motion carried.

TIME AND PLACE COMMITTEE — Mrs. Robert O. Wright, Chairman, absent, her report was read by the Secretary, which recommended that we accept an invitation to meet in the San Francisco, California area, April 26, 27, 28, 1962, with headquarters at the Sheraton Palace Hotel. An agreement has been concluded with the Sales Department of this hotel and the committee believes that a most successful meeting may be held there. The members in this area are active and enthusiastic and they would, in the committee's opinion, stage a very outstanding convention. Mrs. James Carey moved that we accept the report and that we accept the invitation to meet in San Francisco. Seconded by Mrs. Z. C. Layson. Discussion. Motion carried. A vote of thanks was extended to this committee for their untiring efforts and wonderful work.

AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY — Dr. Charles Fischer, Chairman, explained the functions of the American Horticultural Council, as he is our representative to the Council. He stated that the work of the Color Fan Committee was completed. A new chart, which they hope will become a simplified standard for color designation was published during this past year. Over 1000 copies have already been sold, unit price being about \$5.00. He had hoped that a portion of the fan most applicable to our African violets might be published in our Magazine, but the official board of the AHC does not feel that this possible. Therefore, he recommends as the next best alternate that clubs, or better still individuals, purchase this useful fan for their own use. Mrs. Z. C. Layson moved that we accept this most inspiring report. Seconded by Floyd Johnson. Motion carried.

REGISTRATION — Mrs. Constance Hansen, Chairman, reported that \$541.00 had been received for the period April 1957-1958, expenditures \$14.68. There were 135 registrations and 130 name reservations. H. G. Harvey moved that we accept her report. Seconded by Joseph Schulz. Discussion of registering plants. Motion carried.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE — Mrs. Claude E. Greeley, Chairman, read the following report: —

President.....H. G. Harvey, Atlanta, Georgia
1st Vice-Pres.....Mrs. James B. Carey, Knoxville, Tenn.
2nd Vice-Pres.....Dr. Evan P. Roberts, E. Lansing, Mich.
Recording Sec'y.....Joseph D. Schulz, Indianapolis, Ind.
Membership Sec'y.....Mrs. Robert O. Wright, Knoxville, Tenn.
Corresponding Sec.....Mrs. Edward Jones, Beaumont, Texas
Treasurer.....Mrs. Arthur Radtke, Cincinnati, Ohio

Directors.....Mrs. Clarence Howard, Westfield, N. J.
 Mrs. Elbert M. Lewis, Gadsden, Ala.
 John T. Buckner, Pleasant Hill, Mo.
 Mrs. Pearl Thomas, Walnut Creek, Calif.

Mrs. Constance Hansen moved that we accept this report. Seconded by Mrs. Ralph Berst. Motion carried.

COFFEE BREAK — 10 minute recess 3:20 P.M.

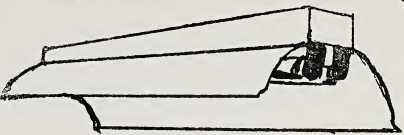
A vote of thanks was given by the Board of Directors to Mrs. Fred Flory and Lewis Cook, for the coffee and sweet rolls served at this recess. They were enjoyed tremendously by all.

Reconvened 3:30 P.M.

BY-LAWS — Henry Peterson, Chairman, absent. The President, Mr. Carter, reported that our Parliamentarian, Mrs. Rene Edmundson, was working on the By-Laws making a few minor changes, with the committee.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMITTEE — William B. Carter, Chairman, reported that an Executive Director had been hired on October 1, 1957, and released on December 16, 1957, at a cost of \$600.00 per month. Mrs. James B. Carey moved that we accept their report. Seconded by Mrs. Pearl Turner. Discussion. Motion carried.

**The Perfect Lighting for African Violets
FLUORESCENT FIXTURES**



**MODEL FH240
FOR 2 TUBES 40 WATT**

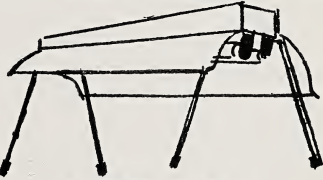
(Equal to about 240 W. of regular bulbs)
Size: 48" long, 13" wide
COMPLETE WITH 2 DAYLIGHT BULBS
36" rubber cord and pull-switch, Underwriters approved.

\$10.50 Each

For additional growing results -- if so desired -- 2 sockets for 60 W. incandescent bulbs built in.

ADD \$1.50

New TABLE MODEL New



MODEL FU240

Same as Model FH240 (above) with the addition of 2 wrought iron legs, 18" high, with rubber tips, black.

**COMPLETE WITH LEGS
\$12.50 Each**

**FOR 2 TUBES 20 WATT
MODEL FH220**

(Size: 24" long, 13" wide)
(Equal to about 120 W. of regular bulbs)
36" rubber cord and pull-switch, Underwriters approved.

\$8.90 Each

**TABLE MODEL WITH LEGS
\$10.90 EACH**

Mail check or money order to:

FROSH FLUORESCENT CORP.
MANUFACTURERS
**203 BROAD AVENUE
FAIRVIEW, NEW JERSEY**

Please send:

- ☐ MODEL FH240 @ \$10.50
- ☐ MODEL FU240 (Table Model) @ \$12.50
- ☐ MODEL FH220 @ \$8.90
- ☐ Build in 2 Sockets for 60 W. Incandescent \$1.50 PER FIXTURE

As advertised, for which I enclose check or money

order for \$ _____, plus \$2.20 for packing and postage for each fixture. West of Mississippi, add \$3.35.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

COMMERCIAL SALES AND EXHIBITS — Mrs. John Landaker, Chairman, absent, her 1957 report was read by the Secretary, Mrs. Ralph Berst moved we accept this report. Seconded by Mrs. Arthur Radtke. Motion carried.

AFFILIATED CHAPTERS — Mrs. Maxine Wangberg, Chairman, absent, as of this time, will give her report tonight.

SUBJECT INDEX — Mrs. Claude E. Greeley moved that our Editor be authorized to print 25,000 copies of the Subject Index for the magazine. Seconded by H. G. Harvey. Discussion. Mr. Johnson reported that Mrs. Miriam Lightbourn had been the one to work on this assignment and had given over 275 hours of her time to it. It had been a tremendous job, now the work had been completed and the final proofreading was in progress. The Society had given Mrs. Lightbourn \$75.00 for this work. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS — Floyd Johnson asked the question, did we publish the new By-Laws? The President, Mr. Carter, replied that we did not, as there were still a few changes that were to be taken care of and Mrs. Edmundson was working with the committee at the present time. H. G. Harvey moved that we table the discussion of the By-Laws at the present time. Seconded by Mrs. Pearl Turner. Motion carried.

Mrs. Constance Hansen moved that a committee be appointed to set up a ruling on the admission of the public to our shows, what they should be charged, time, etc. Seconded by Mrs. Pearl Turner. Discussion. Motion carried. The President, Mr. Carter, appointed on this committee, Mrs. Constance Hansen, Mrs. Harold Baker, and Floyd Johnson, who are to report back to the Board on this tonight.

H. G. Harvey moved we adjourn until 7:30 this evening.

Respectfully submitted,
MARGE WOLF
(MRS. GILBERT D. WOLF)
RECORDING SECRETARY

The annual Board of Directors meeting of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., reconvened at 8 o'clock on Wednesday evening, April 23, 1958, in the Sheraton Room of the Sheraton Hotel, Rochester, New York, with the President, William B. Carter presiding.

Roll call was answered by the following: —

President.....	William B. Carter
1st Vice-Pres.....	H. G. Harvey
2nd Vice-Pres.....	Mrs. James B. Carey
Recording Sec'y.....	Mrs. Gilbert D. Wolf
Corresponding Sec'y.....	Joseph D. Schulz
Treasurer.....	Mrs. Arthur Radtke
Past President.....	Floyd L. Johnson
Directors.....	Lewis Cook
	Mrs. H. W. Martin
	Mrs. E. E. Thompson

Mrs. Jack Yakie
Albert Buell
Mrs. Harold Baker

Chairmen of Standing
Committees.....

Mrs. Z. C. Layson
Mrs. Ralph Berst
Mrs. Claude E. Greeley
Mrs. Pearl Turner
Mrs. Constance Hansen
Mrs. Maxine Wangberg
Mrs. John Landaker
Dr. Charles Fischer

Parliamentarian..... Mrs. Rene Edmundson

The President, Mr. Carter, called for a report of the committee appointed to recommend a ruling for the admission of the public to our shows. Mrs. Hansen made the report. Mrs. Pearl Turner moved that:

At National Conventions it is permissible to open the exhibitions of the Amateur and Professional Shows to the public for a limited time, provided the following conditions are met:

- 1 - The admission fee will be the same as the regular registration fee for one day that our members are charged with a half price admission for children.
- 2 - That assurance has been obtained from the Federal Tax Representative that since the Show is educational and put on by non-profit organization, no amusement tax will be collected.
- 3 - That assurance has been obtained that the hotel will not charge extra for the room if the public is admitted.
- 4 - That the Exhibition Show not to be opened for more than two hours and the two hours be when the members are in meeting.

Motion seconded by Mr. Harvey. Discussion. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS — Mrs. Jack Yakie moved that the Library Committee be allowed to prepare three (3) groups of 30 slides each of the latest introductions to be made available to individuals, as members, other than clubs, at a rental of \$1.00 each. Seconded by Joseph Schulz. Discussion. Motion carried.

Mrs. Jack Yakie moved that the limitation of four (4) slide programs per year to a club be changed and that Librarian be permitted to supply with as many programs as they request. Seconded by Joseph Schulz. Discussion. Motion carried.

Mrs. Jack Yakie moved that we appropriate \$500.00 to the Library for new slide programs for the coming year. Seconded by Lewis Cook. Discussion. Motion carried.

Mrs. Z. C. Layson moved that \$150.00 be appropriated for the Awards Committee to be spent during the coming year (Detroit Convention) for the usual cups, ribbons, rosettes, and all other awards. Seconded by Mrs. Arthur Radtke. Motion carried.

AFFILIATED CHAPTERS — Mrs. Maxine Wangberg, Chairman, gave her report stating that 326 Chapters were paid up with the National Society as of April 1, 1957. As

SCOTSWARD AFRICAN VIOLET FARM is again offering a list of freshly cut leaves.

Some of the newest varieties we consider outstanding are:

Blushing Beauty
Sleeping Beauty
Constant Beauty
Fair Lady
Little Jewel

Dbl. Green Beads
Lavender Gold Lace
Blue Gold Lace
Pirate Gold
Masquerade

Several hundred are on the list as well as a collection of 50 of the best "Oldies we cannot do without."

Blooming plants of all sizes may be had at the greenhouse but we ship freshly cut leaves only. WE DO NOT SHIP PLANTS.

List on request.

71 Hanover Road

Mrs. C. B. Ward — FR 7-1132

Florham Park, New Jersey

of April 1, 1953, 333 clubs were paid up, thus showing a gain of 7 new clubs over this period. Floyd Johnson moved that we accept the report. Seconded by Mrs. Arthur Radtke. Discussion. Motion carried. A vote of thanks was given Mrs. Wangberg for the marvelous job she is doing and the Society was deeply grateful.

Mrs. Arthur Radtke moved that a committee be appointed to study the possibilities of Regional African Violet Societies becoming associated in some manner with the National Society. This committee to bring in a report next year. Seconded by Mrs. Claude Greeley. Discussion. Motion carried. The President, Mr. Carter, appointed on this committee Mrs. Constance Hansen, Chairman, Mrs. Z. C. Layson, Mrs. Maxine Wangberg, and Floyd Johnson.

Mrs. Claude Greeley asked that a special time be allowed for the members to take pictures of the shows. Mrs. Arthur Radtke moved that the Board of Directors act as guards to permit the members to take pictures of the shows from 6:30 to 7:30 Friday morning, providing this is agreeable with the Show Chairman. Seconded by Mrs. E. E. Thompson. Discussion. Motion carried.

H. G. Harvey moved that the Executive Director Committee be continued next year and that they be allotted not over \$500.00 to use in interviewing prospective candidates. This committee to have at least one (1) woman member. Seconded by Mrs. Pearle Turner. Discussion. Motion carried.

Mrs. Constance Hansen moved that the Advertising Manager, Floyd L. Johnson be allowed \$250.00 for a new typewriter, to be his property, for the one he wore out working for the Society. Seconded by Lewis Cook. Discussion. Motion carried.

H. G. Harvey moved to adjourn at 9:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
MARGE WOLF
 (MRS. GILBERT D. WOLF)
 RECORDING SECRETARY

CALLED BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

A called meeting of the Board of Directors of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., was held in the Sheraton Room of the Sheraton Hotel, Rochester, New York, at 1:30 P.M., April 26, 1953, with the President, H. G. Harvey, presiding.

Roll call was answered by the following members: —

President.....	H. G. Harvey
1st Vice-Pres.....	Mrs. James B. Carey
Recording Sec'y.....	Joseph D. Schula
Treasurer.....	Mrs. Arthur Radtke
Past President.....	William B. Carter
Directors	Lewis Cook
	Albert Beall
	John T. Buckner
	Mrs. Pearle Thomas
	Mrs. H. W. Martin
	Mrs. Harold Baker
	Mrs. Clarence E. Howard
	Mrs. Jack Yakie
	Mrs. Raymond Crotty
	Mrs. Elbert M. Lewis
Chairmen of Standing Committees.....	Mrs. Z. C. Layson
	Mrs. E. Pearle Turner
	Henry Peterson
	Mrs. Claude E. Greeley
	Mrs. Constance Hansen
	Mrs. Martin Wangberg
Parliamentarian.....	Mrs. Rene Edmundson


The President submitted a tabulation of appointments of committees and committee chairman which he proposed for the ensuing year. During consideration of these proposed appointments, three changes were made. They were as follows:

1. The name of Mrs. Walter Schmittel, Akron, Ohio, was added as a member of the Official Pin Committee, the omission of her name being a clerical error.
2. At a previous Directors Meeting it has been voted that one member of the Executive Directors Committee be a woman. Accordingly, Mr. Harvey withdrew the name of Neil Miller and proposed that the name of Mrs. James B. Carey, Knoxville, Tennessee, be put on this committee.
3. The special committee known as the Associated Regional Societies Committee, which was appointed by President William Carter on the instructions of the Board, was proposed for reappointment by Mr.

AFRICAN VIOLETS

Three hundred varieties Newest and Best
 Window grown Leaves only mailed
 Send 5¢ for descriptive price list and leaflet on violet culture.

MRS. TOM HARDISTY
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 **THE FINEST IN AFRICAN VIOLETS**

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 Just 4½ miles north of Univ. of Md., directly on U. S. Route No. 1, or 5 miles south of Laurel
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Visitors are welcome at our greenhouse. We grow over 800 of the choicest older and new varieties. Open Sundays. No shipping.

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MRS. LEO SPENGLER
 15 West Preston Ave. Orlando, Florida

Announcing

NU-BUD

The first successful African Violet

BLOSSOMER

for those non-budding plants

and NU-GRO

A superbly effective all-purpose food with excellent tonic — stimulant qualities both for growing finer plants and for conquering growing problems. \$1.00 each postpaid.

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AFRICAN VIOLETS
OLD and NEW
Send Stamp for List
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LYKE'S AFRICAN VIOLETS

White Plastic Labels

4½"	100 for \$1.00	500 for \$4.50
Plastic Pots	25 Mottled	25 White
2"	\$1.00	\$1.00
2½"	1.25	1.35
2½"	1.50	1.60
3" regular or tub	1.75	2.00
3½" regular or tub	2.00	2.50
4" tub	2.50	3.00
Saucers 3¾" per dozen		.60
4¾" per dozen		.85

These prices are postpaid in U. S. A.

Do come and see our African violets when this way. We do not ship these, nor do we have a list. Always new plants at Lyke's at reasonable prices. Come see for yourself!

East Bethany, N. Y., 6 Mi. S.E. of Batavia

AFRICAN VIOLETS

Choice Old and New Varieties
 Grown under fluorescent lights

Rooted Cuttings

Small Plants

Stamp for list.

MRS. HAZEL PRICE

New Virginia, Iowa



SPONGE-ROK*

JUST LIKE THE REAL EARTHWORM,
 Sponge-Rok keeps the soil loose and pliable for better growing. It can be mixed with earth, peat mold, charcoal, and countless other ingredients, in each case assisting the plant to grow stronger and faster.

Sponge-Rok is also used in many commercially prepared plant mixtures. It is widely accepted as the finest material known for aeration, drainage, and storage of moisture and plant food.

Samples and Prices on Request.

SPONGE-ROK SALES

Dealer Inquiries Invited.

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* A product of Paramount Perlite Co.

Harvey for the ensuing year. The committee consisted of Mrs. Constance Hansen, Lafayette, California, Chairman; Floyd L. Johnson, Canandaigua, New York; Mrs. Z. C. Layson, Mayville, Kentucky, and Mrs. Martin Wangberg, Harlowtown, Montana.

It was moved by Mrs. Arthur Radtke that the proposed committee appointments as revised be approved. Seconded by Mrs. Raymond Crotty. Motion carried.

President Harvey called for any new appropriations that would be needed by the various committees for the forthcoming year.

Mrs. Constance Hansen moved that \$1,500 be appropriated for the Research Committee this year. Seconded by William Carter. Discussion followed. Motion carried.

Mrs. Arthur Radtke moved that a sum of \$500 be made available for expenses of the Buyer's Guide Committee of the African Violet Magazine. Seconded by John T. Buckner. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Mrs. James Carey that \$500 be allocated as an advance on 1959 Convention show expenses, and \$200 be advanced for use in connection with the general Convention expenses. Motion seconded by Mrs. Jack Yalie. Motion passed.

William Carter moved that the General Chairman of the Detroit Convention be instructed to appoint a Convention Treasurer. This Treasurer shall be responsible for all monies received. After the convention, he shall submit a full and complete report to the Treasurer of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., as well as remaining funds. Motion seconded by Lewis Cook. Motion passed.

William Carter moved that the President be authorized to spend up to \$1,000 during this Society year on promotional activities. Seconded by Mrs. Z. C. Layson. Motion passed.

Mrs. James Carey moved that \$200 be appropriated to help clubs needing financial assistance to pay teachers' expenses because of distance the teachers travel in conducting judging schools. Motion seconded by Mrs. Arthur Radtke. Discussion followed. Motion passed.

William Carter moved that the Society pay the expenses of the Parliamentarian incurred in connection with attendance at the Rochester Convention. Motion seconded by Mrs. James Carey. Motion passed.

At this point, Mr. Harvey stepped down from his chair and turned the meeting over to the First Vice-President, Mrs. James Carey.

Lewis Cook moved that all standing committees should consist of a minimum of three members. If fewer than this number is on any standing committee, vacancies exist in this committee. These vacancies may be filled by the President in accordance with By-Law provisions concerning vacancies. Seconded by Mrs. Arthur Radtke. Motion passed.

H. G. Harvey moved that the Recording Secretary be authorized and directed to turn over to Mrs. Arthur Radtke such minute books of the Society as she shall require for the use of the By-Laws Committee. During the time these books are in Mrs. Radtke's possession the Recording Secretary is relieved of the responsibility of their safekeeping, which responsibility is transferred to Mrs. Radtke. She shall return these books immediately upon the request from the Recording Secretary and in any event as soon as the By-Laws Committee has abstracted from them the data they need. Motion seconded by Mrs. Claude Greeley. Motion passed.

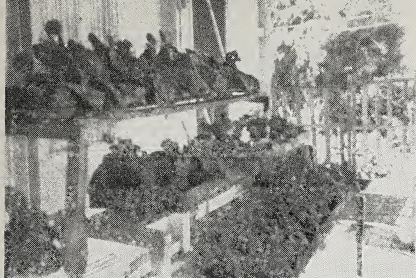
Motion was made by H. G. Harvey that the Buyer's Guide Committee be instructed to register those plants of the Best 100 varieties that are not now registered. A general discussion ensued concerning registration. Motion failed.

Mrs. Constance Hansen moved that we discontinue the 5-point penalty imposed on unregistered plants at convention shows. Seconded by Mrs. Pearle Turner. Discussion followed. Motion passed.

It was moved by H. G. Harvey that the Publications Committee be authorized to print 2,000 copies of the Registration List and the Judges' List for distribution separate from the Members' Handbook. Motion seconded by Mrs. Claude Greeley. Discussion followed. Motion passed.

At this point, Mr. Harvey returned to the President's chair. Motion was made by Mrs. Claude Greeley that the Board meeting adjourn. Seconded by Albert Buell. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
JOSEPH D. SCHULZ
 RECORDING SECRETARY



Violets on the verandah at Mrs. Brown's home in the Fiji Islands.

VIOLETS ON THE VERANDAH

Rewa Browne, Suva, Fiji Islands

Here in the Fiji Islands, I grow all my African violets on an open verandah, and stand the pots in tin trays containing about two inches of clean river sand. This is kept moist enough to let the roots get water. I also, about once a week, give the plants a dose of Coudy's Crystals in liquid form, as this drives out the earth worms that, no matter how I try to avoid them, get into the pots and make the plants look very sick.

My soil mixture is: lots of leaf mold which I collect in the bush, clean sand, a bit of cow manure, and good soil. All these I sieve through two thicknesses of small wire netting which is nailed on a box, until the mixture is like coarse sand.



Specimens of some of Mrs. Brown's plants.

We are very short of fertilizers here and do not have the ones you use in the United States.

My violets are potted in clay pots and also in pots we cut from a tree fern called Balabala. I think the same tree fern grows in Honolulu. It is about twenty feet tall and its trunk is black, with a sort of prickly look. I cut these into various lengths, and we find they make good pots in which to grow African violets. end



A NEW COLUMNEA

Catherine B. Shepherd, Arlington, Va.

During the latter part of August, 1955, I received a few plants from Martin S. Sawyer of the Canal Zone. Amongst them were two gesneriads which were thought to be *Columneas*. Neither of the plants had leaves on them. Soon after potting them I was taken ill and was unable to go to the greenhouse for several months. The following spring I saw these two plants looking the same as when I had potted them. After a while I saw specks of green showing on both of them and was pleasantly surprised as I had thought them to be dead. As time went on one plant grew very fast but the other one made very slow progress. I sent one or two cuttings away and was told that the one with the largest leaf was a *Codonanthe*.

In August, 1956, I sent cuttings of both plants to Paul Arnold. Time passed, and I decided to take the small leaved plant to the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D. C. I thought perhaps Dr. Morton, who is a leading authority on Panama gesneriads, would identify it for me. I found him to be on vacation. The cutting sent to Paul Arnold finally produced bloom but mine has yet to do so.

While visiting my daughter in Huntsville during the summer of 1958, a letter was forwarded to me from Dr. Morton. He wrote that he had received a specimen of this plant from Dr. Moore and said he believed it to be a new *Columnea*. Later I received a picture from Mr. Arnold, showing part of the plant, which accompanies this article. You will notice the purple hairs that are all over the bloom. This plant will be described and named by Dr. Morton in the near future. end

PEOPLE ARE NICER 'N ENNYBODY

Marie Dannemiller, Barberton, Ohio

Isn't it strange how a very few words can open up a whole new world? The Convention reports had always interested me, but I never thought I would attend a Convention. Then came the invitation to participate in the Pittsburgh panel discussion. It was a wonderful experience, making new friends and meeting those with whom I had been corresponding. Then I found I could go to Minneapolis, and it was a thrill to meet Robert Rodale, from Organic Gardening Magazine, who was one of the featured speakers. Then came the Cincinnati Convention, my Annual Membership Award; and, then the Rochester Convention.

I had not intended going to Rochester, but when I mentioned the Convention to my niece from Syracuse, she urged me to go and then make her a visit. My next door neighbor's mother, who lives in New York but who was visiting in Barberton, also urged me to go and then go on to New York City and stay with her. That was too wonderful a chance to miss (I had never been east of Pittsburgh), so I decided to go. I mentioned my plans in our Organic Units, and shortly thereafter received a letter from Mary Anderson of Royersford, Pennsylvania, inviting me to her home and a planned trip to Emmaus to Organic Magazine. Definitely, I was going now.

The trip to Rochester by bus (my first long one) was delightful. Forsythia and spring blooming bulbs gave promise of the beauty yet to come. The hotel in Rochester was nice, though small, and the food was excellent; but many of us were very disappointed at not being able to get in to see the show. Friendships were renewed and new ones formed. The programs were fine. Then, suddenly, it was Saturday and time to say goodbye.

The trip to Syracuse and then to New York was so interesting. My first subway ride left me breathless! Rose lives on Fort Washington Avenue at 168th Street, a block from the subway entrance, and we walked past the new Medical Center, and saw the Cancer Hospital, which is directly across the street. A few blocks east looms the George Washington Bridge and the Hudson River. School was just out when we got to the corner, and it seemed incredible that all these children lived in the huge apartment buildings, with not even a square inch of yard in which to play. Rose has a lovely two-room-and-kitchenette apartment, with a two window bay in each room, but I needed only a glance at the high brick wall about ten feet away to see why she couldn't raise the violets I had given her several times.

Shortly after we arrived I had a phone call from a gentleman with whom I had had some correspondence, and he invited us to go on a tour of the city in his car the next day. When he told me that he was a reporter for the New York Times, I knew we could have no better guide. He took us down under the Washington Bridge to Riverside Drive. I was amazed to find that Manhattan is most all solid rock. He pointed out many places of interest, and had many stories to tell. After several hours we crossed the Tri-Borough Bridge to visit his home in Queens, and found that his wife had prepared a lovely luncheon—for two complete strangers! At one time Mr. Maclaren raised tropical fish in huge tanks; now he has those tanks beautifully planted and features African violets. He told us about his sister in Nyasaland, Africa, to whom I had sent violet seeds; she is an artist and had wanted to paint violets after he told her about raising them, but she said they had never heard of them there. We think of Africa as being a primitive country. He gave me a newspaper in which one of her paintings had been wrapped, and there, big as life, was a Coca Cola ad!

For the next several days we went sightseeing via subway and "shanks' mare." How in the world they ever find the right place for the right train is a mystery to me. It never occurred to me that we could have taken a guided tour. Nevertheless, we saw many things. One that interested me greatly was the huge rocks in Central Park. The fact that there were no particles lying around, that they were very hard and smooth but looked as though they were impregnated with isinglass up to a quarter in size, which I could flake off, made me wonder if they might be mica rocks.

One night we stayed down town to see Times Square in all its glory. We passed a theatre where Cinerama, "The Search For Happiness," was showing, and as neither of us had ever seen one, we went in. Imagine my surprise to find that it was about the Province of Hunza in Northern India. Sir Albert Howard, in his book, "An Agricultural Testament," and Lady Eve Balfour, in hers, "The Living Soil," both tell about these healthy people. It was from their books that I quoted at Pittsburgh, telling how nematodes could be controlled organically. The latter part of March, I had the pleasure of hearing Lady Eve lecture at Stan Hywet Hall in Akron, the Seiberling Cultural Center, and met and talked to her.

After a week in New York, I went on to Philadelphia where Mary met me and took me on

a sightseeing tour. That day and the next, when we went to Valley Forge, many of my history stories became a reality. We also visited the DuPont Estates, but it rained so hard we kept to the greenhouses and conservatories.

On Wednesday (my fifth straight day of hard rain), Czarina Hall, whom I had met at Pittsburgh, took her sister, Mary and me through some beautiful country that reminded me very much of our Ohio, to Emmaus where I again saw Bob Rodale and Jerry Olds, another of Organic Gardening Magazine's assistant editors, who had visited us here several years go. We had a very nice visit, and my friends were all amazed at the youth of these young men and the workers around them. Though we visited the Experimental Farm, there was little to see, it being the wrong time of the year. Czarina pointed out the Hex signs on some of the Pennsylvania Dutch barns, as we drove through a beautiful winding valley; and far back in the woods, that were thickly carpeted with Mertensia, or Virginia Blue Bells, we came to her home, Four Acres. This lovely, old stone house has window sills about a foot wide, that are a perfect setting for her lovely, blooming violets. Czarina and Myrtle do all the work on their four acres; mostly it is a naturalistic setting with two clearings for garden and cultivated flowers, and it must be beautiful for they have every kind of wild flower for this section that I have ever heard of. After a rest and refreshments, returning to Royersford.

Mary went in to Philadelphia with me on Thursday morning. She is such an energetic

person, just about five feet tall, snow white hair, beautiful brown eyes; and she wore a grey suit with a bright red hat and a perky little veil that matched her lipstick. She only belongs to seventeen round robins, has a collection of prized cacti besides her violets, and is an active Girl Scout leader, and also has a lovely outside garden. She had had a birthday a few days before, and when she told me she was so many years old, I couldn't believe it, for people like Mary never grow old—they are just too many years young. My enjoyable visit with her and her very nice husband and their daughter Elizabeth is something I will long cherish.

That old expression, "People are nicer 'n ennybody" certainly came true for me, and I shall never forget the warmth and hospitality of all these casual acquaintances who invited me into their homes, and the deep friendships which resulted. Just think, it all started because we all love the little African violet. end

Carolyn Rector's New Violets
Leaves Only

Send stamped addressed envelope for list.

MRS. CAROLYN K. RECTOR

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San Pedro, California

Visit our Basement Garden for Plants and Supplies

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21 TAFT AVENUE

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POULETTE'S "5-STAR" SWINGING GARDEN-GATE PLANT HOLDERS



New and handsome! Each rack holds 5 plants on removable, fluted 3" trays. Accommodates pots up to 4" squatty or regular. Utilizes natural light of unused window area. A touch swings plants into room or nearer light. 40" high; 13" across bottom. Rigid steel; black semi-gloss finish. Decorative hardware and screws included.

Will show off your large and small plants while enhancing windows from inside and out. Requires less than 1" width of window frame area for mounting.

Pair \$14.95 ppd., East of the Mississippi, West of the Mississippi add \$1.00 per pair; \$2.00 for Canada. Send check or money order. No C. O. D.'s Satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded.

POULETTE WELDING CO.

Dept. AVD

Kempton, Penna.

TERRIFIC!

New soil mix based on University of California Manual recommendations. (See article in A. V. Magazine, Dec. 1958, page 22.) Sterilized and treated with V-C 13.

3 qt. bag — \$1.00, 3 bags for \$2.50, postpaid east of Mississippi, west add 45¢. Special rates for clubs.

Doris Leigh

P. O. Box 51

Montvale, N. J.

SEEDLINGS FOR BEGINNERS

Carol Girgus, Somerville, New Jersey

A lot has been said about hybridizing, but, for the beginner, one of the most difficult things is to know where to find the pollen. The pollen is in the anthers, the bright yellow sacs coming out of the center of each flower. The pollen is taken from the anthers with a needle, or by pressing the anther between the thumbnails, and placed on the tip of the stigma protruding from the center of the blossom.

Hybridizing can be done at any time. This is convenient, as you may have just thought of a good goal you would like to attain.

Pollinating should be done when the blossom is fully open and the pollen is ripe.

The first generation plants usually resemble the mother plant. So choose your best plant for the seed pod to ripen on, and take the pollen from another very good plant. A good parent plant is one that is in bloom most of the time, has a large number of big flowers, and good, strong, symmetrical growth.

You can tell if the cross took by the swelling on the lower part of the stigma. If the cross does not take, continue to repeat it on other blossoms until one takes. After the seed pod begins to develop, it usually takes three to six months for it to ripen. The pod is ripe when it is dry and brown. It will be reduced about two-thirds in size when it dries.

The pods may be opened and planted about two weeks after they have dried, or they may be kept in a paper bag and planted at a more convenient time.

New seed usually germinate within two or three weeks after planting. Old seed sometimes takes up to three months to germinate.

Very good results have been obtained by sowing seed in clear plastic refrigerator dishes. Use finely chopped sphagnum moss, or one-half peat and one-half sand, sterilized, as the planting medium. The planting medium is moistened, the seed sown, and then the cover is put on to maintain moisture around the seed.

Do not keep seed or new plantlets too wet or they will rot. They should be kept out of the sun until they are well-established. It is preferable to grow them under fluorescent light; it will not burn them like the sun will.

After the second leaves appear, water with a weak liquid fertilizer every two weeks.

Seedlings may be transplanted as soon as you can handle them, or when they have four leaves. A large flower pot may be used as a pan, and a very light soil mixture should be used. Soil may be lightened by adding sterilized builder's sand and peat.

When the small plantlets start crowding one another, they should be replanted in separate pots, still using a light, porous soil.

After the plants have bloomed, most of them should be given away to hospitals, nursing homes, or dumped. Usually there are only a few that are worth keeping and testing to see if they will come true and continue to be different, good bloomers, strong compact growers, and will readily reproduce from leaf cuttings.

Hybridizing is such a satisfying hobby that beginners will be happy with their results if they start out with good, proven parent plants.

end



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GOOD PLANTING DAYS

Selma Mesloh, Los Angeles, Calif.

Permission granted by the Llewellyn Publishing Co., 8921 National Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. (Moon Sign Book)

For desired results the Moon's place in the Signs of the Zodiac must be used in selecting good planting days. The time the following is calculated by is Pacific Standard. I used the "Moon Sign Book" as a source of my information.

JANUARY 9th — semifruitful till 5:56 p.m., 12th — fruitful, 13th — fruitful, 14th — fruitful till 9:12 a.m. then barren, 17th — semifruitful, 18th — semifruitful, 19th — semifruitful till 10:14 a.m. then barren, 22nd — fruitful, 23rd — fruitful.

FEBRUARY 8th — fruitful after 8:52 a.m., 9th — fruitful, 10th — fruitful till 5:58 p.m., 14th — semifruitful, 15th — semifruitful till 6:37 p.m., 18th — fruitful after 5:48 a.m., 19th — fruitful, 20th — fruitful till 1:33 p.m. then barren.

MARCH 9th — fruitful but not too good as date is change from 4th to 1st Q., 10th — barren after 1:54 a.m., 13th — semifruitful, 14th — semifruitful, 15th — barren after 2:31 a.m., 17th — fruitful after 2:23 p.m., 18th — fruitful, 19th — fruitful, 20th — barren, 23rd — barren, 24th — semifruitful. 3rd Q. after 12:02 p.m.

APRIL 10th — semifruitful, 11th — barren after 9:24 a.m., 14th — fruitful, 15th — fruitful, 16th — barren after 7:51 a.m., 19th — barren, 20th — barren.

MAY 11th — fruitful, 12th — fruitful, 13th — fruitful till 2:36 p.m. then barren, 17th — barren, 18th — semifruitful, 19th — semifruitful, 20th — fruitful, 21st — fruitful, 22nd — barren. 3rd Q. after 4:56 a.m.

JUNE 7th — fruitful after 9:24 a.m., 8th — fruitful, 9th — fruitful, 13th — barren, 14th — barren till 10:38 then semifruitful, 15th — semifruitful, 16th — fruitful after 1:34 p.m., 17th — fruitful, 18th — fruitful till 2:13 p.m. then barren.

JULY 6th — fruitful, 10th — barren, 11th — barren till 4:23 p.m., 12th — semifruitful, 13th — semifruitful, 14th — fruitful, 15th — fruitful, 16th — barren, 19th — semifruitful, 20th — barren. Also 3rd Q.

AUGUST 7th — barren, 8th — semifruitful, 9th — semifruitful, 10th — fruitful, 11th — fruitful, 12th — barren, 15th — semifruitful, 16th — semifruitful till 9:56 a.m. then barren, 19th — fruitful. 3rd Q., 20th — fruitful. 3rd Q.

SEPTEMBER 3rd — barren, 4th — semifruitful, 5th — semifruitful, 6th — fruitful, 7th — fruitful, 8th — fruitful till 10:21 a.m. then barren, 11th — semifruitful, 12th — semifruitful till 4:45 p.m., 15th — fruitful, 16th — fruitful. 3rd Q. at 4:51 p.m.

OCTOBER 4th — fruitful, 5th — fruitful till 4:55 p.m., 9th — semifruitful, 10th — barren, 12th — fruitful, 13th — fruitful, 14th — fruitful till 12:22 p.m. then barren.

NOVEMBER 1st — fruitful, 2nd — barren, 4th — semifruitful, 5th — semifruitful, 6th — barren, 8th — fruitful after 9:38 a.m., 9th — fruitful, 10th — fruitful, 14th — semifruitful.

DECEMBER 2nd — semifruitful, 3rd — semifruitful till 12:41 p.m. then barren, 6th — fruitful, 7th — fruitful, 8th — barren, 11th — semifruitful, 12th — semifruitful, 30th — semifruitful till 11:24 a.m., 31st — barren. end

SHOW ADVICE

Before it gets too close to show time, plants should be prepared for exhibit. Many growers know what to do, but there may be new members or new exhibitors who need suggestions.

A clean, healthy plant with a straight stem and a single crown is the plant that takes a ribbon. If the neck is too long, replot the plant, setting it down in the pot, and removing any of the lower set of leaves that are too light a color.

Space the leaves with toothpicks so that a symmetrical plant may develop. do this before watering, while the leaves are pliable.

Spray the leaves with tepid water to keep them clean.

Remember that besides the blue ribbon, there are red, white, and yellow ribbons to win, and it is a great joy to receive an award. In the event that no award is won, do not be discouraged, as the experience gained in one show may help you improve your entries for another show. end

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SHOW AND JUDGING INFORMATION

Ruth G. Carey, Knoxville, Tennessee

Greetings to all the many judges and teachers in the African Violet Society of America, Inc. I want to thank all of you for your wonderful co-operation and work in promoting the growing of good horticulture specimens; also your interest in sponsoring shows and programs.

Many, many Affiliated Chapters have applied for the National Society Gold and Purple Ribbon Awards, to be awarded at their shows. Infrequently there have been occasions when the entries for these awards were not of the required high quality, as a consequence the ribbons were returned to Mrs. Wangberg. In a sense this is a challenge to try harder the next time; for all of us know anything that is easily won or acquired is quickly forgotten.

The Society has a number of qualified judges, however, the need for judges is greater than ever before. It takes an experienced, capable, conscientious person to possess the qualifications of a good judge. The way to achieve this is to study the rules, grow plants, do as much practice judging as possible and take advantage of every opportunity to get all of the knowledge available about new varieties.

A few years ago arrangement classes were added to the Convention Amateur Show. While these new classes have added much interest and beauty, they will never take precedent over the classes for specimen plants, as our Society is a plant Society and one that specializes in the growing of fine African violets.

I have many requests for information concerning schedules, and what requirement, if any, the National Society has concerning them. My answer is, always, that the Club may include any information or classes they desire; there are no special requirements by the National Society. So if one Club wishes to concentrate on more arrangement classes that is entirely up to them

to do so, or if they wish to leave out all arrangement classes and concentrate on specimen classes, that is completely within their jurisdiction.

Specimen plants are judged by the same scale of points that was written by the Committee on Show Preparation and Judging at the very beginning and we are still using this same scale of points. The scale of points used in judging African violet arrangements is different and is used only in judging arrangements.

It is not true that judges are required to win a specified number of blue ribbons and judge a certain number of shows before they are eligible to become qualified judges. At one time this requirement was in force but it was dropped because it was found not practical, due to the fact that judges in many sections of the country could not fulfill this requirement.

There is a healthy difference of opinion on Society rules governing judging. Some members consider them too strict, while on the other hand, others feel we should have more rigid rules. We must keep in mind that in order to reach perfection, we must strive to improve each year. The African Violet Society is one of the finest anywhere in the Nation, so let us not be satisfied with receiving recognition and awards for inferior plants.

The question of how to renew judges certificates is asked over and over. Judges must take a refresher course every three years to hold their judging certificate. Many judges are not at their best until they have refreshed the course. The passing grade is 70 for judges and 90 for teachers. (The grade of 90 alone does not entitle a student to become a teacher. A copy of the rules may be secured from the Chairman of the Committee on Show Preparation and Judging.) Judges certificates cannot be renewed by correspondence, nor may students receive the course by mail.

As we embark on another year, I will strive to keep you informed through the African Violet Magazine of the new rules, problems, and questions which many of you face, and I will appreciate it if you will keep me informed of the information you desire. end

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Club

NEWS

MAXINE WANGBERG

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Deadline dates for Club News contributions: For September issue, June 1st; for December, September 1st; for March, December 1st; for June, March 1st.

The **AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA**, elected the following officers for the coming year: president, Mrs. Norman Bullock; vice-president, Mrs. T. E. Leipold; recording secretary, Miss Suzette McCouch; corresponding secretary, Miss Susanne Meyer; treasurer, Mrs. G. W. Nothardt.

At the October meeting of the **CAPITAL DISTRICT AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, ALBANY, NEW YORK**, the following officers were elected for the coming year: president, Mrs. William Meister; vice-president, Mrs. Hazel Jordan; recording secretary, Mrs. Earl Raymond; corresponding secretary, Mrs. F. Henry Galpin; treasurer, Mrs. Malvina Hevenor.

The **LOYALIST AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF NEW BRUNSWICK, ST. JOHN-LANCASTER DISTRICT**, held election and installation of officers on June 17, 1958, at the home of Mrs. Noel Baxter, Lakewood Heights. The following officers were elected: president, Mrs. William T. Tyner; vice-president, Mrs. Angus Melanson; secretary, Mrs. Roy Earle; treasurer, Mrs. Wallace Lloyd.

Mrs. Angus Melanson was crowned "African Violet Queen," as the club member whose African violet collection had made the greatest increase during the past year.

Mrs. Watters displayed oddities of the African violet world. Colored slides, that had been taken at the National Convention in Rochester, were shown by Mrs. Tyner and Mrs. Watters.

At the close of the meeting a presentation was made to the retiring president, Mrs. Watters.

The newly formed **FORT VANCOUVER AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON**, met in September at the home of Mrs. Clarence Sowers.

The year promises to be a rewarding one for all, with guest speakers, slides of various shows from other cities, and trips to the various growers in the area.

The following officers were elected: president, Mrs. William Huttel; vice-president, Mrs. Clarence Sowers; secretary, Mrs. Melton Bude; treasurer, Mrs. Darrell Coffield.

The **NORTH SHORE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF LYNN, MASSACHUSETTS**, recently elected the following officers: president, Mrs. Perley Knight; vice-president, Mrs. William Olsanoski; corresponding secretary, Mrs. George Beckert; recording secretary, Mrs. Weston Allen; treasurer, Mrs. Frank Boynton.

The **SACRAMENTO SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA**, meets on the third Wednesday of each month at the Garden and Arts Center. A noon no-hostess luncheon precedes the business meeting.

While the chief interest of the members is the care and growing of violets, the programs are varied. They purchased a wheel chair for the local Crippled Children's Society, and members helped in many ways.

The feature of the October program was "Pictures in Rocks," an illustrated talk given by one of the members, Mrs. M. Colony, whose rock collection is well-known. The November program followed the same lines, with a talk and demonstration on "Bonsai."

The **FIRST AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF CARY, NORTH CAROLINA**, met at the home of Mrs. Glenn Russell, on November 6, 1958. After a delicious luncheon, reports were given by the president, Mrs. H. J. Waff, Jr., and the treasurer, Mrs. J. S. Hawkins. The nominating committee presented the following slate of officers: president, Mrs. J. A. Bailey; vice-president, Mrs. Don Cooperrider; secretary, Mrs. William Wilson; treasurer, Mrs. J. R. Atkins. Installation of officers was held the following week at the home of Mrs. Wilson, with Mrs. Waff as installing officer. After the meeting the newly installed president gave each member a year book cover to complete and then compete for an award.

Mrs. Waff was presented with a lovely pair of candlesticks for her two years' work with the club and her part in its organization.

The **AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY**, met on November 22, 1958, at the home of Mrs. Beetem, and the following officers were elected for the coming year: president, Mrs. Fred Wolks; vice-president, Mrs. Rufus Rodgers; recording secretary, Mrs. J. Y. Hubbard; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Marvin Ash; treasurer, Mrs. John Brink.

In September, the members of the **BALTIMORE AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND**, were invited to exhibit and sell plants at the Franklin High School Fair. Mrs. Myrtle Kimrey was in charge of the booth and the club was able to turn over \$25.00 as a contribution toward the work at the school.

A judging school was sponsored by the club, and was held at the main branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library on October 24th and 25th. Mrs. Lois Minehan of Binghamton, New York, was the teacher.

Slides of the Cincinnati Convention, African violet problems and their remedies, and packing baskets of food for needy families for distribution at Thanksgiving, are some of the activities the club has participated in and enjoyed during the past months.

On September 17, 1958, the members of the **JAMESTOWN AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, JAMESTOWN, NEW YORK**, enjoyed a picnic and tour of the home of Mrs. Berdena Woodley in Gowanda. Many beautiful plants were exhibited and Mrs. Woodley presented each guest with two leaves. A picnic lunch was served, with Mrs. Charles Glad and Mrs. Fred Lawson in charge as cochairmen.

On October 15th, the club had a tour of members' homes for the purpose of viewing violet plants. The following members opened their homes for this event: Mrs. Murray Smith, Mrs. Lawrence Love and Mrs. Arthur Agnew. This was followed by a tea at the home of Mrs. George Dean, under the direction of the following committee: Mrs. Bertha Zeestraten, Mrs. Stanley Parkhurst, Mrs. James Johnson, Mrs. Roy Cook, Mrs. Stanley Trettin and Mrs. Murray Smith.

The **AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA**, celebrated its tenth birthday in September with a potluck luncheon, amid beautifully decorated tables, and favors for the members, all done by Mrs. Alfaretta Maxwell. She also decorated the tables in November, for a potluck luncheon that was followed by the installation of officers. New officers are: president, Mrs. Golda Overberg; vice-president, Mrs. Florence Mitchell; secretary, Mrs. Rita Brown; treasurer, Mrs. Dorothy Powell. Mrs. C. H. Harris was the installing officer.

The monthly meeting of the **CRUSADER AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**, was held on November 2, 1958, at the home of Mrs. Albert Harper. The speaker for the day was Edgar Harris, a well-known African violet grower, who gave an informative talk on growing violets from leaf to mature plants. He also showed slides on violet diseases, that proved helpful to all members.

Mr. Harris announced that he had just released four new violets with girl type foliage, one named for the past president and organizer of the Crusader club, Mrs. John Ricker. The plant was named Lady Anne.



From left to right in the photograph are Mrs. Kenneth Covert, Mr. Lyndon Lyon, Mrs. Lyndon Lyon, and Mr. Frederick Theilemann, president of the Mohawk Valley African Violet Society.

On April 30, 1958, the **MOHAWK VALLEY AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** gave a life membership to Mr. and Mrs. Lyndon Lyon. The certificate was a hand painted parchment designed by Mrs. Vera Covert, on which was painted in glowing lifelike color, some of the recent varieties originated by Mr. and Mrs. Lyon in their intensive hybridizing program. Surrounding the script of the certificate are lifelike blossoms of Raspberry Pink, Mark Robert, Little Jewel, Camellia, Corinne, Lingo, Star Light Invader and IVB (unnamed as yet). The certificate was presented at a dinner held in honor of the occasion at Lake Hill House in Scotia, N. Y.

Officers of the Raleigh African Violet Society of Raleigh, North Carolina. Left to right — Mrs. Haywood H. Williams, vice president; Mrs. R. T. Stephenson, recording secretary; Mrs. Oscar Leach, treasurer; Mrs. O. D. Fleming, Jr., president.



The **RALEIGH AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA**, elected the following officers for the coming year: president, Mrs. O. D. Fleming, Jr.; vice-president, Mrs. Haywood Williams; recording secretary, Mrs. R. T. Stephenson; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Walter Croy; treasurer, Mrs. Oscar Leach.

Mrs. Russell E. Wood, past president, was presented with a silver bowl, engraved with the society name, title and dates of the two years served.

Mrs. Haywood Williams and Mrs. M. B. Silvers were given white ribbons for one year perfect attendance, and orchid ribbons for two years went to Mrs. O. D. Fleming, Jr. and Mrs. Harold Nelson.

As a club project, in October 1957, members were given a leaf of Ebb Tide. Mrs. Russell Wood won a cash prize for the best plant.

The **CHICO AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF CHICO, CALIFORNIA**, held potluck luncheon meetings during the summer months, at the homes of the members.

In September, Mrs. W. L. Whitney gave a book review of the new book "1001 African Violet Questions Answered by Twelve Experts." In October, Mrs. Ray Lowry discussed the origin and care of gloxinias. In November, colored slides were shown.

The club meets every fourth Tuesday at 8:00 p.m. at the Recreation Center Building, Ninth and Pine Streets. Mrs. D. W. Seay was president for 1958. Mrs. W. L. Whitney is president for 1959.

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DEALER INQUIRIES INVITED

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A twelve o'clock luncheon preceded the regular meeting of the **POMONA VALLEY CHAPTER OF THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.**, held at La Verne, California, on October 20, 1958. Highlight of the meeting was the installation of officers for the coming year.

Mrs. C. H. Harris, president of the African Violet Council of Southern California, was the speaker and installing officer. The outgoing officers presented the incoming officers with a beautifully decorated folder, containing the By-Laws, all folders linked together with a purple ribbon, reminding all that they must work together as a unit. The ribbon was then cut, signifying that each must still do her own work. Mrs. Harris then instructed each officer the duties of her office. Mrs. Myrtle Goodrich, outgoing president, was presented with a National Society past president's pin, as were two past presidents, Mrs. Cecil Houdyshel and Mrs. Evelyn Cooper.

The following officers were installed for the coming year: president, Mrs. R. C. Rathbone; first vice-president, Mrs. Mary Dunlap; second vice-president, Mrs. Jack Rocheld; secretary, Mrs. Dorothy Parker; treasurer, Miss Nealie Gibbs.

The following officers for 1959 were elected by the **RACINE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, RACINE, WISCONSIN**, at the annual meeting held November 24, 1958, in the VFW club rooms in Racine: president, Mr. Myron Keller; first vice-president, Mrs. George Betts; second vice-president, Mrs. George Kutil; secretary, Mrs. LaVerne Ludwig; treasurer, Mrs. Ed Schultz.

The **MISSOURI VALLEY AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI**, held election of officers on October 28, 1958, at the Oakland Tea Room. The following officers were elected: president, Mrs. Ray Phelps; first vice-president, Mrs. L. A. Beck; second vice-president, Mrs. Harold Brockett; recording secretary, Miss Dorothy Curtis; corresponding secretary, Mrs. W. A. Jenkins; treasurer, Mrs. V. J. Gibbons.

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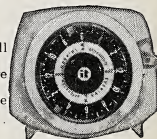
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C	CARIBBEAN —	giant bright blue blossoms with attractive waved foliage, an eye catcher showing much pollen	\$2.00
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BETHAYRES, PA.

June 4

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African Violet

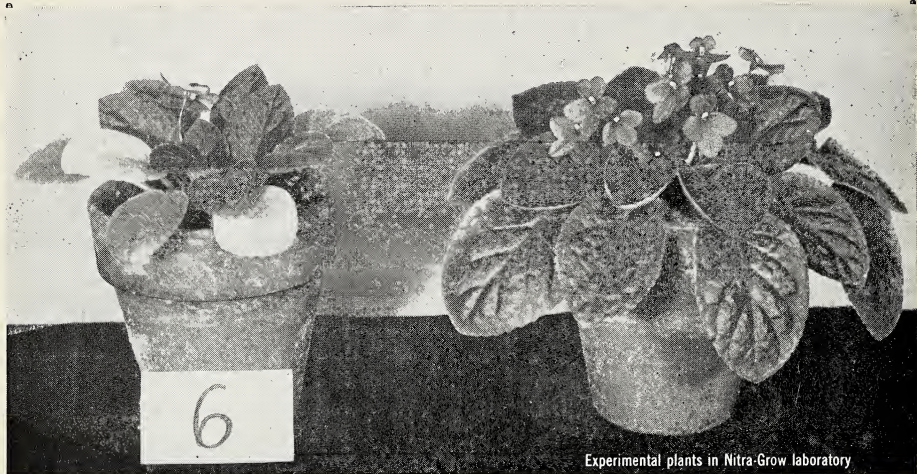
M A G A Z I N E

JUNE 1959

VOLUME 12 NUMBER 4



.....
: don't envy "show" violets . . . grow them yourself :
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with **nitra-grow** *the complete potting
and planting soil*

The two plants shown above are from the same stock, were grown under identical conditions. Nitra-Grow potting soil produced the large, healthy plant at right. Proof that you can get "show" results with your African Violets when you use Nitra-Grow.

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AUNT EMMA'S PLANT

Mrs. John Sculley, Jr., St. James,
Long Island, New York

My earliest memories of African violets go back approximately forty years to my childhood in Bermuda. There, at my great-aunt's home in St. George, was the most lovely blue African violet. It seemed to bloom continuously in a glassed-in porch with northern exposure. There, where the natural humidity is high, where no artificial heat is needed to keep the houses warm, where the garden soil is rich and friable and definitely on the alkaline side, the plant grew for years and years, never seeming to be without bloom.

Just how long the violet had been there before my recollection, I do not know. The plant had been brought to Bermuda by a great-uncle, who was captain of a sailing vessel and later of a steamship, that sailed to many parts of the world. We believed that the plant came directly from England, but possibly it could have come straight from Africa.

My mother, who was an avid gardener, soon succeeded in getting a cutting of the plant to root, and in time our sun porch housed many of the lovely blue violets along with mother's ferns. Plants were given to church bazaars to be sold. Many were given to friends, and I am certain that some of the plain blue African violets found growing on many window sills in Bermuda today are descendants of my Great-Aunt Emma's plant.

Who knows, possibly the first plain blue violet in America may have come from Bermuda.

end

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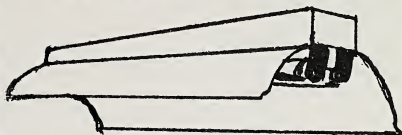
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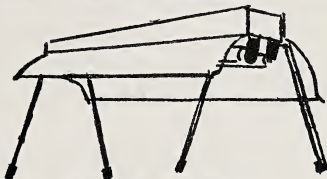
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36" rubber cord and pull-switch, Underwriters ap-
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FOR 2 TUBES 20 WATT MODEL FH220

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African Violet Magazine

A Quarterly Publication

C O N T E N T S

Vol. 12

June 1959

No. 4

Front Cover: Oil painting of Melody Air by Tip Ayres. (See Editor's Message page 3.)

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FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Friends:

This time our front cover is an oil painting by Tip Ayres of Mary Meed's beautiful Melody Air. As the artist saw this delicate pink double — it inspired vivid highlights and dramatic shadows. A variable performing plant, with lovely pale pink blossoms, Melody Air often produces blooms with petals that are flushed or streaked in deeper pink.

Due to circumstances beyond my control this magazine is later than planned. I am sorry.

Most sincerely,

Anna Wright



grow prize-winning violets

the
Stim-U-Plant
way



It's a fact—when fed the Stim-U-Plant way, African Violets grow bigger and healthier, have more blooms. For prize-winners, start with our high-organic soil mixes, feed with the rich, balanced 5-8-7 Stim-U-Plant solution and keep pests away with Sel-Kaps (containing sodium selenate) or African Violet Spray. Economy growers' sizes (one pound and five pounds) available, write:

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Stim-U-Plant African Violet Spray. New, handy insecticide for violets and all other house plants. Full protection with one quick spray.

Sel-Kaps. An effective insecticide which plant absorbs, giving it immunity to mites, mealy bugs, red spider, aphids, etc. Safe, can't harm your African Violets.



African Violet Soil, Peat Humus, Planter Mix, Special mixtures to assure maximum growth and blooming.

Stim-U-Plant products are available in Variety, Hardware, and Garden stores, Floral shops, Supermarkets.

SPECIAL SUMMER OFFER!

To Violet Society Members

BEAT THE FALL RUSH AND TRY OUR NEW METHOD OF SHIPPING QUALITY ROOTED LEAVES. (EACH ROOTED LEAF IS SEALED IN AN INDIVIDUAL POLYETHYLENE BAG. THIS ASSURES PERFECT FRESHNESS ON ARRIVAL, EVEN IN HOTTEST WEATHER.) WE GUARANTEE SAFE ARRIVAL OF THESE LEAVES. PLEASE ALLOW 2 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY.

FOR 2½ MONTHS (JUNE, JULY, AND AUGUST) YOU CAN CHOOSE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING 156 ROOTED LEAVES AT 14 FOR \$5.00, POSTPAID, OR ANY 30 FOR \$10.00. FRESH CUT LEAVES ARE 16 for \$5.00 OR 34 FOR \$10.00. YOU CAN ORDER A SMALLER NUMBER AT 50¢ EACH, ROOTED OR 40¢ EACH, FRESH CUT. AFTER SEPTEMBER 1ST THIS SPECIAL OFFER WILL EXPIRE AND ALL ROOTED LEAVES WILL BE 50¢ EACH.

CHARTREUSE FRINGE—Double fringed pink with chartreuse edging on girl foliage. Beautifully scalloped leaves.

WYOMING—The first double fringed pink girl. Flowers are heavily fringed and a good pink. Evenly scalloped foliage.

AFRICAN GIRL—Large fringed deep purple, single girl.

AFTERGLO—Very dark double pink on dark girl foliage. Top prize winner at 1958 convention.

ALBINO FANTASY—Excellent fantasy flower on mottled green and yellow foliage.

ANN RUTLEDGE—Veined blue and white single flower, girl leaf.

AVON—Double star shaped flowers mottled pink and white. One of the best on this list.

BITTERSWEET—Large cerise pink fringed flowers on excellent dark red-backed foliage.

BLACK CHERRY IMPROVED—Deepest wine red single, dark spooning shiny foliage.

BLACK MAGIC SUPREME—Huge rich double purple with yellow eye.

BLUE GOLD LACE—Fringed blue with wide golden edge.

BLUE NOCTURNE—Large double light blue fringed flowers, excellent grower with strong foliage.

BLUE PEAK—Heavy blooming double blue with excellent white edging.

CAVALIER SUPREME—Very large double, blackish purple flowers.

CHARTREUSE LACE—Fringed single white with chartreuse edge.

CHIPPEWA—Fringed deep pink, very dark leaf.

CLARISSA HARRIS—Fringed deep pink single, excellent growth.

COTTONTOP—Variegated blue and white plus Geneva edge, unusual.

DARK STAR PINK—Deep single star pink on dark foliage.

DARKEST AFRICA—Very, very deep black purple single with excellent fringing.

DAY TIDE—Double white with pink center.

DIXIE MOONBEAM—Single white with blue shading and dark blue veining. Very unusual.

DIXIE MOONBEAM GIRL—Similar flower to above, girl leaf.

DOUBLE DANDY—A real prize winner. Huge double purple.

DOUBLE DUBONNET—Dark double red, shiny leaves, excellent depth of color.

DOUBLE PEACH BLOSSOM—Double peach pink on very dark foliage.

DRESDEN DREAM—Fringed single pink, chartreuse edge. Beautiful foliage.

DROPS O' WINE—Fully double deep wine, huge flowers.

EXCEL—Very fringed medium blue single. Heavy blooming quality.

FAIR LADY—Large double cameo pink on dark girl foliage.

FALLING STAR—Very large star flowered white. Excellent flowers and growing habit.

FRECKLES—Very unusual in appearance. Dark blue dots covering a white single flower. Propagates true.

FRILLED ROSETTE—Wavy double pink, at times pink and white.

FRINGED APPLE BLOSSOM—Double fringed pink, lighter on edges.

FRINGED POMPON—Double fringed lavender and white with excellent chartreuse edging.

FRINGED SNOW PRINCE—Large pure white fringed flower, rounded wavy leaf.

FROSTED MADONNA—Double white girl on unusual white veined foliage.

FROSTED SHOW PRINCE—An albino of the familiar Snow Prince. An excellent variety.

HELEN VAN PELT WILSON—Single pink with white "Geneva" edging on girl foliage.

HOLIDAY—A best seller, very, very deep double pink, close to cerise.

HOLIDAY SPORT—Even deeper pink colored sport of "Holiday." Darker foliage.

HOLLYWOOD ACE—Huge light blue double and a fast grower as well. Dark green, rounded pliable foliage.

HONEY—Double fringed pink and white. Wonderful flowers.

INVADER—Semi-double to double ruffled pink, tremendous petunia-like star-shaped flowers.

LIGHT BLUE CLUSTER—Light blue sport of Gent's Blue Cluster. Excellent large fluffy double.

LIGHT HONEYBUD—Large double white with pink center, often becoming beautifully variegated with darker pink.

LIGHT INVADER—Double to semi-double huge petunia shaped white flower with pink center.

LITTLE ARISTOCRAT—Fringed, double purple on dark Holly-type foliage.

LITTLE JEWEL—Very, very dark double fringed pink. Another of the best on this list.

LITTLE SWEETHEART—Double fringed medium pink.

LONGIFOLIA DOUBLE PINK—Deep double ruffled pink on long dark wavy leaf.

LORNA DOONE—Very fringed dark orchid double, good strong foliage and an excellent bloomer.

MATCHMATE—Double fringed light blue with white to chartreuse edging.

MEG—Very fringed double orchid bicolor on fancy girl foliage.

MY CHOICE—Large double pink and white on girl foliage.

HENRY TEN HAGEN

Warsaw, N. Y.

List Continued on Following Page



REMEMBER: THESE REDUCED PRICES ARE IN EFFECT ONLY UNTIL SEPTEMBER 1ST. PLEASE SAVE THIS LIST, HOWEVER, AS THESE ARE FOR SALE AT REGULAR PRICES (ROOTED — 50¢, FRESH CUT — 40¢ EACH.) UNTIL NOVEMBER 15TH.

NANCY HANKS—Huge fringed single light blue.

NIP & TUCK—Comes true with nice large and contrasted double lavender and white flowers.

PINK BABYBREATHE—Semi-double pink and white, girl foliage.

PINK CELEBRITY—Large deep double pink on very dark green red-backed symmetrical girl foliage.

PINK FEATHER—Single fringed light pink on excellent regular girl foliage.

PINK FLARE—Large rounded single cerise, color of Holiday. Dark foliage.

PINK GENEVA—Single pink with white "Geneva" edging.

PINK GLAMOUR—Mammoth double fringed medium pink.

PINK MAGIC—Large cerise centered single, shiny Neptune foliage.

PINK MIRACLE—Bright pink single with darker center and edging.

POPCORN—A miniature dark double pink girl.

PRELUDE—Vigorous double pink and white. Propagates true.

PRIMATIF—Huge single (starshaped), Holiday color flower.

RED GLOW—A single fluorescent pink cerise. Very deep and getting close to red.

ROSALINDE—Huge double fringed orchid flowers on DuPont foliage.

ROSE GLOW—One of the best growing dark rose pinks on beautiful dark green, red-backed foliage.

RUFFLED BI—Truly different! Single fringed purple and white with top petals lighter.

SELECT PANSY GIRL—Single blue with varying white edge like Pansy, girl leaf.

SHOW CHAMPION—Huge, fully double light blue flowers on a DuPont girl leaf. An excellent grower and bloomer even though it is a giant.

SHOW MAN—Over the past years it has been one of our best sellers. We think of it as the best standard white single because of its huge flowers, heavy blooming and rapid symmetrical growth.

SHOW QUEEN—Direct sport of Ruffled Queen to albino foliage. Large fringed red-lavender, sturdy growing, and very showy when it is in its green and white foliage stages.

SHOW STAR—Perfect blue star on single pink flower. Leaves of this unusual variety propagate about 75% true.

SILVER FLUTE—The albino "Holly" type foliage is outstanding. White flower with some blue.

SKY BLUE PINK—Double variegated pink and purple on dark red-backed, quilted foliage.

SNOWY PRINCESS—Two-toned lavender single on albino foliage. Excellent sturdy growth.

SO SWEET—Double fringed light cameo pink. Excellent bloomer and grower.

SPAN—Double pink in the new star-shaped flowers.

SPARKLING WATERS—A beautiful and unusual variety. Fantasy markings of purple on dark blue.

SPIC—Dark blue double in the new "star shaped" flowers.

SPLASH—Similar to Fantasy but a tremendous improvement with larger and flatter flowers and more profuse purple markings.

SPOTLIGHT—Medium pink single with very deep reddish pink center.

STAR BLUE—Huge star-shaped dark blue single. Excellent bloomer.

STARLIGHT BLUE—Single star-shaped light blue and white.

STRIKE ME PINK—Deep double pink girl, dark foliage and one of the best varieties on this list.

SUNDAY BEST—Fringed single medium blue and one of the best chartreuse edged varieties on this list. Excellent dark leaf, red-backed.

SWANKY—(Previously named Fine Swank) Double pink and blue combinations. Similar to "Swank" but far superior in growth.

T-V CUT VELVET—Double fringed red, chartreuse edge.

T-V ROSE PROM—Single fringed red, chartreuse edge.

T-V SCANDAL—Single fringed deep purple with chartreuse edging.

TAFFETA—Excellent dark green sturdy growth. Ruffled single lavender flowers in profusion.

TILLIE—Single star-shaped lavender, large flowers.

TRUDY—Fringed white single with spreading medium blue center. Very startling.

UNION COUNTY SPOTLIGHT—Nicely marked variegated deep red lavender and white single. Propagates unusually true.

VALINPINK—Fringed single deep pink, chartreuse edge.

VALIN PINK PETTICOATS—Strong growing fringed single pink with chartreuse edge.

WARM WELCOME—Bi-colored lavender and white with top petals light.

WHITE GODDESS—Fringed single white on girl foliage.

WHITE GOLD LACE—Single fringed white with wide chartreuse edging. Small flowers.

WHITE ORCHID—Large heavily fringed single white on upright wavy foliage.

WHITE PRIDE—Strong growing, spooning foliage, heavy blooming, double white.

WHITE PRIDE SUPREME—A sport of the above and makes a terrific show plant. We recommend this variety highly.

PETROCOSMEA KERRII—A close relative of the African violet with yellow and white flowers. (See page 19 of the March African Violet Magazine.)

THESE FIFTY ADDITIONAL VARIETIES AVAILABLE AT THE SAME PRICE:

ALBINO SWIRLS	LIGHT CARESS
BLUE CHARTREUSE	LOVEKNOT
BLUE ELECTRA	MARK ROBERT
BLUE FLAG	MISS PINK
BLUEVA	MY SIN
BLUSHING SUPREME	NIAGARA
BONNIE GIRL	OLD BOUQUET
CHARTREUSE MOONBEAM	PINK CELEBRITY SUP.
CHARTREUSE SISTER	PINK MARBLE
CHARTREUSE WONDER	PINK SPRAY
CLOUD FRINGE	PIRATE TREASURE
DOUBLE FANTASY	PORTRAIT
DBL STAR PURPLE	RAMONA
EXOTICA	RASPBERRY PINK
FASCINATION	REDDERNESS
FRILLED ROSETTE SUP.	ROYAL LACE
FRINGED DBL PINK	SEA SHADOWS
GO PINK	SONJA
IVA	SPELLBOUND
KIMBERLY	SWISS PANSY
LAVENDER GOLD LACE	TOKKA DELIGHT
LIGHT GLAMOUR	TOWN TALK
LIGHT REDDERNESS	VAGABOND
LONG DBL LIGHT BLUE	VALIANT LADY
LONG PINK (Single)	WINTERSET

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HENRY TEN HAGEN

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(FREE PRICE LIST ON REQUEST. 25¢ CHARGE TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES. THIS LISTS SOME OTHER VARIETIES.)

PLEASE NOTE: No orders are accepted under \$3.00, and on orders below \$5.00 please add 75¢ for postage and packing. Airmail is 50¢ extra up to a \$5.00 order and 5¢ more for each \$1.00 of the order above that. We guarantee safe delivery anywhere in the United States. All cuttings are labeled and true to name.

THIS AND THAT

Clem Browning, Flemingsburg, Kentucky

It would seem that every phase of African violet culture, including the solution and prevention of every possible ill, has been all spelled out for us in the several excellent books, authored by experts, now on the market. Even so, there may still be a place for the simple chatter, the give and take of personal experience, between us humble everyday home growers.

It is in this spirit that I venture to offer a few observations.

Experts please to turn the page.

It is my custom to start leaves in glass dishes containing a half-strength solution of Hyponex made with rain water, changing it only when water looks very messy. Dishes are kept around edges of a table under lights. Ordinarily leaves remain there only until roots are about one-fourth inch but occasionally they may sprout little plantlets before getting set out and no harm done. This method suits me because leaves are supported by the rim of the dish and because should a leaf happen to rot it can be easily spotted and removed. Usually they root promptly, particularly in spring and summer, but one winter I had leaves to remain in water three or four months without results and with coming of spring to put forth roots as good as any. How they know a difference in season, provided as they are with artificial heat and light, is one of the unfathomables.

Two-thirds peat and one-third sand is my favorite starting mix, with first a layer of crushed limestone in the pan and a sprinkling of charcoal, again watered with weak Hyponex. Leaves are placed in slanting position and covered shallowly, perhaps one third inch. The pan is then wrapped loosely in clear plastic with provision for air holes. I hasten to disclaim any credit for the use of plastic. It is, I think, quite widely practiced and was taught me by friends. Tiny or weak potted violets are also benefited by a plastic covering until well established and vigorous.

It is my custom, as soon as a leaf becomes firmly rooted, to cut off one-third to one-half of the tip. This prevents the leaf from growing unduly large and also gets rid of excess baggage. Usually these parts of leaves are discarded but

in the case of a rare leaf which I am anxious to propagate I dust the edge with Fermate, set it in my starter mix, cover with plastic and presently have some extra plantlets from the upper half of the same leaf.

If, after due time, a leaf fails to sprout I gently tug until I can feel the roots loosen their hold as sometimes they seem to become root bound and this treatment often results in the early appearance of progeny.

Part of my violet credo is commitment to the practice of pruning which I believe to be of real benefit to a plant and certainly is entirely harmless. As soon as a little plant has four to six true leaves I remove the baby leaves and continue throughout the life of the plant to remove outer leaves as soon as they show damage or fading. When after a time this practice leaves a stalk above ground I lift plant from pot and with scissors cut off sufficient root so that leaves will be again level with pot rim, then fill around stalk with fresh soil. This process never results in shock except rarely in the case of a plant with long petioles. Besides being rejuvenated the plant is kept from becoming too large. If a large plant is desired, instead of lopping off roots it may of course be placed in a larger, deeper pot. I just happen to like them small and seldom use more than a three inch pot.

Recently I have tried removing seed pods as soon as they appear to have stopped growing instead of waiting long months until they shrivel and dry on the stem. This may be six weeks or two months. The pod will dry much more quickly off the plant than on it and in my limited experiments the seeds have proven to be just as fertile as those left on the plant until dry. However, let me emphasize that this is only a suggestion for trying, not a recommendation.

During the summer months this year I tried turning off the fluorescent lights for two or three hours in midafternoon when temperature was at the day's peak, and burning the lights earlier in the morning and later in the evening to make up the usual fourteen hours. There was a difference, I found, of at least six degrees between room temperature and that at plant level under light, the latter being appreciably higher. Plants reacted favorably to this afternoon rest and cooling off period. Those in daylight also were shielded during the hours of strong glare. When room temperature was kept under eighty degrees my violets flourished and bloomed well throughout the summer. Small plants seem less affected by hot weather than larger ones, especially if provided with plenty of moisture. Sitting in pans of wet chicken grits these babies cannot be restrained from blooming at a tender age.

To each grower of African violets his own quirks of care and culture and experiment make the growing a continuing adventure with results ever unpredictable.

What are yours?

end

AFRICAN VIOLETS

Carefully groomed specimens that will make striking gifts or lend added sparkle to your own collection. We do not ship, but visitors may call at any time.

CONNIE AND PAUL GRUENEWALD

835 No. Irving Avenue,
Scranton 10, Pennsylvania

Telephone
Diamond 7-8030

President's Message



From its very beginning, the African Violet Society of America, Inc. has been keenly interested in research projects applying specifically to the Saint-paulia. Our first Research Committee was appointed at the Philadelphia meeting in 1950. Our first research fellowship was awarded to Richard Stinson, then studying at the Ohio State University.

Over the years a rather large and talented group has followed Dr. Stinson. Among them have been Howard Hancey, Jessie Rawson, Austin Ford, Renee Choitz, C. E. Ackerman, M. B. Linford, Daniel Smith, Jerry Washburn, Marvin Carboneau and others too numerous to even list here. These people have all contributed importantly to the stockpile of technical knowledge which is now at the command of the African violet technician.

Mr. Harvey Dr. Sheldon C. Reed deserves special mention in this connection. The Research Committee only contributed some Flora Carts for Dr. Reed to grow violets on. However, they and the doctor's wife together can claim credit for getting him started on African violet genetics. From there on out, he proceeded on his own power to become the outstanding world authority on Saintpaulia genetics. In the past five years he has probably contributed more extensively to the production of new and more beautiful varieties of the plant, by his teachings and by his enunciation of the detail features of African violet hybridization, than has any other person in the world during that same period.

The two Past Chairmen of the Research Committee have been Henry Peterson, who served from 1950 to 1955, and Neil Miller who took over at that time and served until the end of the Detroit Convention — just recently concluded. Dr. Charles Fischer has taken the job over now, with both the former Chairmen serving on his Committee. Henry Peterson did a glorious job of pioneering the work and charting the initial paths for the Committee. Neil Miller, who had been a member of the Committee from its inception, took over and carried on the work with equal distinction.

So now, Dr. Fischer inherits a well-organized and competent Committee with a background of achievement and a history which is of itself a promise of even better things in the future. The Research Committee has been extremely fortunate in its two Past Chairmen, and there is no doubt whatever but that the present one will be able to maintain the brilliant standard set by his two predecessors.

In the ten years that the Society has been supporting the Research work, it has more than received its money's worth. Just two of our more spectacularly successful projects have more than justified all the money we have spent during the ten years on our entire Research program. These two are: first, the establishment of our fluorescent lighting procedure on a factual and scientific basis by Richard Stinson in 1954, and second, Dr. Reed's genetic studies which are still continuing today.

The other important studies such as the nutrient studies of Renee Choitz and others; the light and temperature correlation studies by the Earhart Laboratories; color variations by Howard Mills; chemical rooting tests by Daniel E. Smith and all the rest, simply pile up the favorable balance beyond all cavil. Every one of us in the Society is today having a lot more fun, satisfaction and success with our African violets because of the Research work which has been done in the past.

So when Bill Smithson, Kansas City, Missouri, Chairman of the Boyce Edens Research Fund Committee, asks you for a contribution to the Research Fund, just bear in mind that you are today enjoying the fruits of our past Research successes. It is only fair for you to express your appreciation in a financial way.

Incidentally, there is no law that says you have to wait for Mr. Smithson to ask you. Just send him some money without waiting for a request and see how "happy all over" you make him.

Most sincerely,

H. G. Harvey

P.S. Affiliated Chapters please see the pink sheets for announcement on change of the Affiliated Chapter Chairman.

H. G. Harvey

THE THIRTEENTH



ANNUAL MEETING



THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING



DETROIT, YOU WERE DELIGHTFUL

Joe Schulz, Indianapolis, Indiana

That's just about the consensus of the 13th Annual Convention of our Society. Each year it seems impossible to expect any improvement over the last Convention and Show. Invariably, or so it seems during these delirious days at the Convention, the latest one is the best. Suffice it to say, this year's Convention was a tremendous success as far as everyone having a good time and lots and lots of exciting new violets to see are concerned. Perhaps I am just a wee bit biased, and if I sound that way I guess it is because I had a little bit to do with the Detroit Convention and hope you all will forgive my obvious enthusiasm.

We had beautiful weather in Detroit. The food was excellent. According to the figures I could gather it seems the number attending made it one of the largest if not the largest Convention for all time. Everyone seemed to have had much fun and to have enjoyed their Convention. What more could we want?

Again, as in previous years, when I've written about our Convention Show, I must caution you that what I write are my impressions. What I put down on paper is what I see. Admittedly, when I'm turned loose at a Violet Convention, where I am surrounded with several hundred kindred souls and am wandering around in a world where hundreds of breathtaking violets abound, I'm not really responsible. My appreciation for good show plants and my thrill over new violets might lead me to be overly loquacious. However, be that as it may, I'm as sincere as I know how to be when I try to describe to you what the show was like and what plants were shown. Maybe I'm not critical enough when I start choosing the new things to exclaim over and should be more selective in telling you about what's new. Perhaps it is because I love all violets and appreciate to the utmost anything new or different. To me a Violet Convention is a paradise on earth and as such is to be enjoyed one hundred percent.

The preceding is just my way of telling you that I'm writing things as I saw them and hope that you will accept these facts at face value. After the way I "goofed" on telling what plant was the best professional seedling shown by the Week's last year I must take extra precautions this year to say that any errors or omissions are not intended. It is just that I'm human and subject to mistakes. So please forgive me for my mistakes — they are honest ones. Also, please take all that I say in the manner it is intended.

Enough of that. Let's get to the Convention.

The whole Convention took place on the ballroom floor of the Statler Hilton Hotel. In the foyer of the ballroom over to one side sat the clever arrangement that portrayed the Theme of the Show. The theme, "African Violets in the Motor City," was lettered across the top of an

arrangement of shelves four tiers high with off-center dividers which made odd size cubicals throughout the series of shelves. The shelves were painted a soft lavender-pink. In each cubical sat one or two well grown violets in different colors, flanked by model cars. The background was a deep green which made a most pleasant picture for all to see. This area was a hub of activity all during the Convention.

Off to the left of the foyer, as you stepped from the elevators, was the Bagley Room where the Commercial and Amateur Shows were held. Behind the Bagley Room, down a hallway, was the Wayne Room which housed the Commercial Sales. Needless to say, that place was a beehive of activity any time it was open. You just weren't in vogue unless you had a load of newly purchased violets to take home.

Let's go back to the show room and steep ourselves in the luxury of a tour of the Amateur and Professional Shows. Remember, the descriptions of the violets, arrangements and display were as I saw them and may not be identical with the official printed description when the new plants are offered for sale.

First, let me set the stage for the show. The Bagley Room is large and oblong, with high ceilings and walls painted a deep cream. Very tall windows were draped from ceiling to floor with a floral print. Arranged around the walls of the room were the fifteen professional exhibits. In the center, roped off with light green ribbons, were two long display tables for the amateur plants and arrangement classes. At the end of one row of the Amateur Exhibit, the "Queen" sat surrounded by the "Court".

The majority of arrangement classes were staged on the left half of the first of the two long tables devoted to the Amateur Show. Match stick bamboo, about two feet wide, was turned on end and was so arranged as to be used as dividers as well as a background for the arrangements. Rather a clever idea!

Unfortunately, pictures of all the new plants could not be a part of the report. The plants shown are just some of the outstanding plants chosen from each display. These pictures will tell you much better than mere words what some of the new violets are really like.

In this article I've listed only a few of the awards. A complete report of the awards, prepared by Mrs. Layson, Chairman of the Awards Committee, will appear in a later issue of the magazine. Now, on with the Show!

AMATEUR SHOW

As indicated at the beginning, the Silver Cup Award winner was a beautiful plant of an old faithful variety, Cavalier. This plant was grown,



Mrs. Clarence Kuder, Bowling Green, Ohio won the SILVER CUP of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. with this plant of Cavalier. The Silver Cup is the highest award that may be won by an amateur at the National Show in the Amateur Division.

groomed and shown by Mrs. Clarence Kuder of Bowling Green, Ohio. The excellent quality of Mrs. Kuder's plants was such that she also won the Sweepstakes Award. Mrs. Kuder really has the "knack" for growing superior plants, especially when you consider the quality of competition her plants encountered.

Award of Merit was won by Mrs. J. R. Bush, Muncie, Kansas, on an exceptional plant of Spic. Mrs. Bush is certainly not a new hand when it comes to winning honors at our National Show. Honorable Mention went to Mrs. John T. Buckner, Pleasant Hill, Missouri, for a beautiful specimen plant of Beau Brummel. Mrs. Buckner is one of the Buyer's Guide growers and this win is evidence that she can grow plants well and can tell us which of the newest are best.

Assuming almost everyone will be interested in the winners in the various classes of the Amateur Show, here is a listing, by classes, of the blue ribbon winners. These top winners will give you an indication of the varieties people have chosen to groom as show plants. As is always the case, you will note many familiar varieties listed. Just as in the case of the "Queen", many of the older varieties are still winning top awards. It should be pointed out that the National Show was judged on the merit basis, hence there can be and are several blue ribbon winners in some classes.

SECTION I — Single blossom

- Class 1 — Dark blues and purples: Sunday Best, Purple Knight, Confederate Beauty
- Class 2 — Medium blues: Modenaire
- Class 3 — Light blues: Wayzata
- Class 4 — Reds to violets: No blue ribbons
- Class 5 — Lavenders and orchids: No blue ribbons
- Class 6 — Bicolors: Sir Lancelot, Mojave

- Class 7 — Two tones (variegated blooms): Easter Egg, Portrait, Legionnaire
- Class 8 — Pinks: Rose Pink, Star Pink, Cathy Reed, Northern Sunshine
- Class 9 — Whites: No blue ribbon winners, but I may have missed on this class

SECTION II — Double blossoms

- Class 10 — Purples and blues: Cavalier, Dassell, Beau Brummel, Constance Hansen, Blue Nocturne, Coon Valley, Spic, Carnation Frilled Purple
- Class 11 — Reds and orchids: Crusader, Redderness, Lavenda, Lacy Lavender, Shag
- Class 12 — Pinks: Faberge, Wild Cherry, Minnesota, Fair Lady, Chippewa, Afterglo, Pride of Rochester, Pink Ideal, Pink Moss, Pink Masterpiece, Sweet Memory, Blue Pink, Evelyn Johnson, Peach Blossom, Span, Dbl. Uncle Bob, New Dawn
- Class 13 — Whites: White Puff, White Rock
- Class 14 — Bicolors, variegated and multicolored: Calumet Beacon, Autumn Moon, So Sweet, Lorna Doone, Kimberly, T-V Whisper, Star Gazer, Mendota, Honey

SECTION III — DuPonts, Amazons and Supremes, double blossoms

- Class 15 — Whites: No entries
- Class 16 — Pinks: No entries
- Class 17 — Purples and blues: Gallant One
- Class 18 — Reds and orchids: Prima Donna
- Class 19 — Variegated, bicolor or multicolored: Sleeping Beauty, Cara Mia

SECTION IV — DuPonts, Amazons and Supremes, single blossoms

- Class 20 — Whites: No blue ribbons
- Class 21 — Pink: No blue ribbons
- Class 22 — Purples and blues: Roses Pride, America Supreme
- Class 23 — Variegated, bicolors and multicolored: No blue ribbons
- Class 24 — Reds and orchids: Ruffled Queen

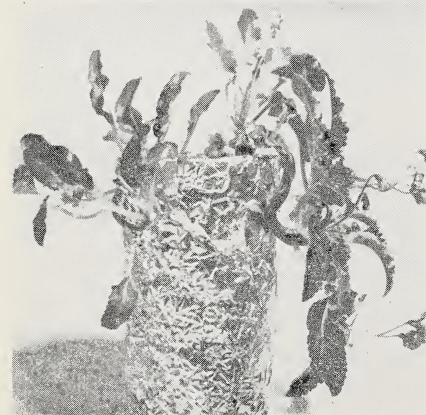


Above, Best Amateur Seedling. Exhibited by Kathryn Heeckt, Lansing, Michigan.

Below, Seedling originated by Helen Coleman, Marion, Indiana.



Below, Side view of Trailer Type seedling.



SECTION V — Single or double blossoms

Class 25 — Novelties: No blue ribbons

Class 26 — Seedlings: One blue ribbon winner in this class. It was unnamed — a semidouble medium blue with a tufted center and light blue petal reverse. The dark green, quilted, pointed foliage was heavily variegated in a cream color. It had a nice flat growth habit. The seedling was originated and exhibited by Kathryn Heeckt, Lansing, Michigan.

Although it did not receive a blue ribbon, there was a very interesting plant in this class exhibited by Mrs. Jerry Coleman, Marion, Indiana. In this plant we have what might be the beginning of a true strain of vining violets. The plant was potted in a receptacle about eight or nine inches high and had a basic stem that reached over the edge and hung two-thirds of the way down the side. There were two offshoots from the main stem that had begun to hang like the original main stem. These two offshoots were back close to the base of the main stem. The foliage was strap like but smallish, deeply waved, serrated and very pointed. It was a deep bronzy-green with a bluish reverse. There was no bloom, but can't you just imagine this with a huge bloom in different colors?

Class 27 — Collection of three registered plants: No blue ribbons

Class 28 — Species specimen: *S. confusa*, *S. tongwensis*

Class 29 — Specimen Gesneriaceae: *Petrocosmea Kerrii*

SECTION VI — Arrangements

Class 30 — From an Ocean Garden: A fair sized inverted bubble bowl was arranged on a black base shot with red streaks. In the bowl, filled with water, was a grouping of large and small double light orchid violet blooms, including the whole bloom stalk. Backing these blooms was a piece of fan shaped white coral. Glacier ivy was entwined around the blooms and at the bottom in front were two small pieces of white coral.

Trailer Type seedling.



A large half shell that had multicoloring of pink, blue, green, etc., sat on a star shell base. At the rim of the upright half shell was an "S" shaped swag arrangement of deep plum purple double violet blooms, green shrub sprigs and a deep mulberry colored synthetic feathery material. A small number of shells were grouped at the base near the lower end of the "S" swag.

Class 31 — Theme of Show: A white pinwheel of wrought iron was placed on a silver base overlooking an oval panoramic picture of Detroit that was framed in tiny gravel. This wheel, somewhat like a ferris wheel, had small plants of blooming violets around the edge in what would have been seats if it really had been a ferris wheel. This wheel and framed picture were flanked by two scale model tan colored sports roadsters each containing a pink angel doll. Each doll held a white ribbon bearing the lettering, "The Motor City."

An old fashioned car of black china held a pretty light blue violet in what would have been the seat used by the footman in the olden days.

Class 32 — Childhood memories: A huge pink gondola type ceramic bowl rested on a dull black oval base. The bowl was filled with dirt and had a large agate rock at one end. Holes in the rock had been planted with green foliage plants to resemble trees. This made a fitting background for a very fine Geneva type violet. Tiny violet plants grew at the base of the rock as well as at the opposite end of the bowl. Around the rock and across the width of the bowl wandered a colored pebble path with a china boy coming home from fishing followed by his little dog.

Another arrangement was a small model of an old fashioned high wheel bicycle ridden by a china boy and girl dressed in pink. The back of the bike was a two wheeled cart that held a sweet little deep pink semidouble girl violet plant and a ferny type small vine.

Class 33 — Unusual containers: A large pink and tan conch shell held a gorgeous Geneva type violet which was growing in the shell.

A small lady figurine was wearing a large black picture hat which held a delightful little plant of Pink Rock.

A small clam shell containing a miniature bright double pink violet plant rested on a piece of flat spongetype shell.

Girl and boy type variegated foliage violets in full bloom were planted in the lips and top of a terra cotta colored strawberry jar that looked like Indian pottery.

Class 34 — Cup and Saucer: A pure white china cup and saucer were placed on a white circular base. In the cup was a triangular arrangement of bright pink miniature rose buds, pink, white and orchid double violet blooms and green euonymus type shrubby foliage.

Class 35 — Corsages: A small corsage made of various colored violet blooms, backed by the deep blood red of violet leaves nestled in a lacy collar. Narrow white ribbons cascaded down the

front of the corsage that sat on top of a clear plastic oval-shaped corsage box.

Class 36 — Around the World: A semidouble pink girl violet was planted in an old fashioned round white china powder box, with pink flowers, which came from Germany.

Two gorgeous deep pink girl violets were planted in a pink and blue Chinese motif dish (like a small soup bowl) that nested in a black base. A nice size deep purple single violet, loaded with bloom, was planted in a small, square Italian woven basket.

THE COMMERCIAL SHOW

It would be impossible for me to name all the winning plants shown by the professional growers. But I do have a few I can describe. You have the best display winners listed at the beginning of this report, and the name of the first place commercial seedling. In preparing the descriptions of plants that follow, there was no attention paid to the ribbons. I just wrote down the varieties that were new, outstanding, and that would be an excellent addition to almost any collection of violets.

This year the number of outstanding new plants is much greater than in previous years. Or so it seemed to me. The hybridizers and growers have been exceptionally fortunate in producing new varieties that are superior and different. Most of these new violets are very, very limited in stock, and it will be some time before they are on the market. Perhaps this fall some will be available to us, or so it was indicated. Personally, I can hardly wait.

Perhaps the originators of the violets I'm going to list will not agree with my description. But these are my interpretations, as seen by my own slightly color-dazed eyes, and are presented as well as I know how.

As previously stated, the Silver Trophy for best professional display went to Fischer's. Second to Granger's and a third to Lyon's. A short description of their display table will precede the plant writeup further on. The best professional seedling is called "Isle of Dreams" and is a product of Lyndon Lyon. "Outstanding" is not adequate to describe this exciting plant. Just imagine if you can, a monstrous (over two inches) medium pink flat star semidouble with the deepest fringe I've ever seen on the petal edges. It looked to be one-fourth inch deep and is rather rolled giving a ruching effect. It has a very deep raspberry-cerise eye with the red coloring here and there in the fringing on the petals. Put these blooms on good deep bronzy-green, ruffled, rounded, hairy but-with-a-sheen foliage, with a flat growth habit and you will have some idea of what this plant is like. Perhaps the pictures will help to explain how good this plant is. As it is also a prolific blooming violet I can only ask "Who could be without it?" At least I'm sure of the winner this year and won't cause as much trouble for everyone as I did when I "goofed" on the Week's Afterglow last year. Mr. Lyon sure does have the "know-how" to



Exhibit by Fischer Greenhouses, Linwood, New Jersey, which won for them the **SILVER TROPHY** for the best commercial exhibit.

Commercial Exhibits Special Award Winners:

SILVER TROPHY — Fischer Greenhouses, Linwood, N. J.

1st Runner-up — Granger Gardens, Medina, Ohio

2nd Runner-up — Mr. and Mrs. Lyndon Lyon, Dolgeville, N. Y.

Class 2: HORTICULTURAL PERFECTION

1st, Blue — Naomi's African Violets, Brockport, N. Y.

2nd, Red — Mr. and Mrs. Lyndon Lyon, Dolgeville, N. Y.

3rd, White — Fischer Greenhouses, Linwood, N. J.

Class 3: STAGING

1st, Blue — Richter's Greenhouse, Hammond, Ind.

2nd, Red — Granger Gardens, Medina, Ohio

3rd, White — Naomi's African Violets, Brockport, N. Y.

Class 6: SEEDLINGS SPORTS AND MUTANTS (Best of Classes 4 and 5)

1st, Blue — Mr. and Mrs. Lyndon Lyon, Dolgeville, N. Y. for their seedling, ISLE OF DREAMS.

2nd, Red — Fischer Greenhouses, Linwood, N. J. for their seedling, TREASURE CHEST.

3rd, White — Mr. and Mrs. Lyndon Lyon, Dolgeville, N. Y. for their seedling, IMI

THE INDIANA STATE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY PLAQUE to the registrant of the best registered named variety in Specimen Classes 1 through 24 in the Amateur Show. Won by Granger Gardens, Medina, Ohio.

The variety Cavalier was introduced and registered by Granger Gardens in 1953. A plant of Cavalier, entered by Mrs. Clarence Kuder, Bowling Green, Ohio, won the Society's Silver Cup.

produce new things. It seems we can expect a wonderful "almost anything" from this hybridizer.

Second best seedling was "Treasure Chest" from Fischer's, another decidedly new and gorgeous colored violet. Third seedling was IMI, another Lyon plant. For a description of these two see the general writeup in this section.

To view the Commercial Show adequately, let's go back to the entrance and start around the room, counter clockwise, taking each display in turn. It hardly seems necessary to say that all the professional display plants were loaded with bloom. Apparently prolificness is one characteristic the hybridizers have made dominant in

their new varieties. Bloom size also is ever-increasing. There is an apparent tendency toward medium size foliage but still with the modern look, that is to say Holly type.

TINARI

Tinari's display is the first one we come to as we enter the doorway and turn to our right. Their display is always something different, and this one is no exception. A black wrought iron flower cart, three-tiered, stands on imitation grass. A sweet teen-age blonde mannequin in a light blue lacy dress stands behind the cart and carries a basket with a gorgeous plant of Lilian Jarrett. Each tier of the cart is filled with

violets and real green vine cascaded over the sides of the bottom tier. Underneath the big cart sits a tiny wooden flower cart filled with new seedlings, unnamed, of many colors and labeled, "New arrivals for Spring."

You have read about Lillian Jarrett in the magazine, and it is just as good as it sounds.

No. 35 — A medium sized, medium orchid, double, each petal with deep green fringed edge. Deep green light veined rippled foliage with heavy serrating, blood red reverse.

Maybe — Do we have a green violet? This one could be very close to it. There are no open blossoms, but the huge buds are light green with deep green heavy ruffled edges. Prolific. Medium green ruffled and waved foliage of heavy substance and light petioles.

Cherry Pink — Very modified flat, medium green foliage with white throat. Deep pink single with darker eye. Large flower and very prolific.

White Monaco — Full double white with just a scattering of pink. Deep forest green, quilted, rounded and pointed foliage. Pale petioles.

Giant Red Glow — Imagine Red Glow in Supreme form. A gorgeous deep cerise. Very dark, small Supreme foliage. A Honey.

Arctic Snow — Rather small, round, slightly serrated, fuzzy and quilted medium green, rather long, pale petioles but flat growing foliage. Large double shaded white and light orchid with deeper orchid eye, slightly raying out into petals.

Pink Sombrero — A huge full double, bright lush pink and very prolific. Slightly quilted, bronzy-green, rounded, flat, blade-like foliage. Flat growing. Excellent, and will be a huge plant, good for showing.

No. 33 — Small, full double, deep red and white stripe with a hint of green fringe on petals. Foliage very similar to Maybe but lighter substance and more wavy.

Zorro — A rich red orchid with deeper orchid mottling in a full double bloom. Black green,

Bud's Mint Champagne, Tay-Bow African Violets.

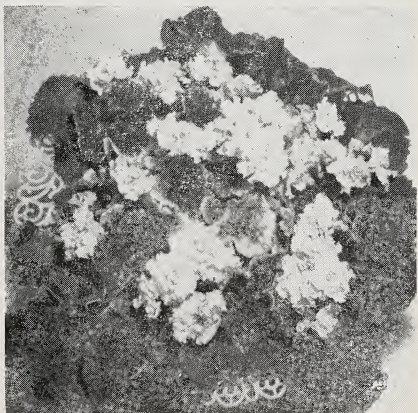


Above, Isle of Dreams. Best Commercial Seedling. Plant was exhibited by Lyndon Lyon, Dolgeville, N. Y.

Below, Bud's Mint Honey, Tay-Bow African Violets.



Bud's Mint Popcorn, Tay-Bow African Violets.





Above, Pink Sombrero, Tinari Greenhouses.



Lilian Jarrett, Tinari Greenhouses.

Below, Cindy, Naomi's African Violets.



shovel type foliage with deep red reverse and petiole. Big plant and good.

Seedling — Small mottled white and orchid full double with green edge outer petals. Very ruffled and fringed bronzy deep green with lighter green streaks up leaf blade.

Purple Pompon — Deep purple medium size, full double with bright green fringe on petals. Black green ruffled and waved, blood red reverse foliage.

Patti Anne — Huge flat girl in light green coloring with large light throat. Big and robust. Large orchid red and white mottled double bloom that is mighty pretty and very prolific.

Green Fringe — A deep hot pink single with very fringed light green almost white edge. Very pretty deep green ruffled and waved modern foliage.

Fire Ball — A great deal like Red Glow but small and deeper red, almost as red as Redderness. Small growing plant.

Giant Pink Geneva — A honey, and need I say more?

NAOMI

The Week's display is draped in black, bottom, top and sides. In the middle of the back drop is a white square showing a big single violet bloom with a sort of scroll design and their name. Mint green net with multicolored sequin dots covers the table where the violets sit. Very attractive.

Red River — A prolific, medium size, red blossom shot with deeper red streaks. Dark

Orchid Smoke, Naomi's African Violets.



forest green, serrated and quilted foliage with scooping tendency. Flat growing.

Perky — A huge white double with medium blue mottling and very prolific. Deep green waved, serrated and pointed foliage of good size. Pale petioles and leaf reverse. A large plant and very good.

Doretta — Deep orchid bicolor full double. Upper petals very dark. Huge size and very prolific. Black-green, very quilted medium sized foliage with red reverse. Excellent.

Zorro — Not the same as Tinari's Zorro. A prolific full double deep purple. Pointed black foliage, serrated and slightly quilted. A good show plant too.

Cindy — Very dark green flat girl with wavy and heavy notching. Will grow large and flat. Very large, slightly ruffled, peachy medium pink full double with sparkling petals. Very prolific and a definite "must." Named for Mrs. Fred Flory.

Gerri — Medium blue, very ruffled, tufted center, semidouble. Medium dark green, wavy and serrated foliage. Slight blush on reverse. Very nice.

Blue Basket — Deep blue-purple semidouble with tufted center. Large size. Foliage similar to their Zorro.

Red Sea — A good size bloom of medium red with deeper red streaks. Single. Different. Medium green pointed girl with slight scoop tendency.

Organza — Exceptionally prolific double white with light blue edge on waved petals. Foliage similar to Perky with good shine. Flat growing show plant. Very nice.

Dusk — A Fantasy type ruffled edge single bloom. Background color is red orchid with shimmering vermillion red eye. Deep purple streaks, splotches and dots. Waved, smooth, deep bronzy-green red reverse, shiny modern foliage. A "must."

Orchid Smoke — An unbelievable number of dusky orchid, frilled edge, semidouble blooms with smoky orchid petal edges. Black green, big, bold waved and quilted fuzzy foliage with a sheen. Gorgeous.

Doll Eyes — A semidouble medium blue with tuft above the eye on a round bloom. Dark, modern, foliage, flat growing and quilted.

Blue Chips — Deep black-green pointed, serrated and slightly waved foliage. Big, bold, deep blue single in great numbers.

Unnamed double white seedling — Large, ruffled, white with lots of green in bud and young bloom. Petals sparkle. Foliage similar to Perky but a bit lighter. Heavy substance and very good.

Roseo — A brilliant red-pink loose double with sparkling petals. Very prolific. Big, waved semigirl foliage. Black green, mottled red reverse. Will make a huge plant and a definite "must have."

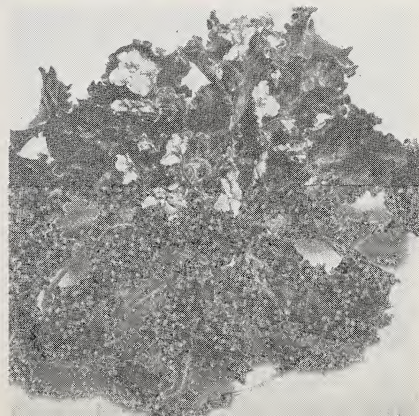


Above, Sir Echo, Select Violet House (Mary Meeds).

Below, Brilliant Lady, Select Violet House (Mary Meeds).



Pioneer, Wilson Brothers.





Red Stone, Wilson Brothers.

MARY MEEDS

You could almost drive right up to the door of The Select Violet House according to the display. A gray skirt around the display sets the stage for the greenhouse scene on top of the table. This shows a tiny greenhouse with growing violets and a busy highway with trucks, cars and all running nearby. A very clever setup. The plants are displayed at the sides and back of the display.

WS Seedling — A bright cherry pink full double with dull dark green, pointed, slightly wavy foliage.

Mint Glow — Huge pale pink-white blush double with deeper pink tufted center. Round blossom. Heavy, fuzzy, dark green flat pointed foliage with good substance.

Fantasy Red Eye — Big, bold, heavy marked Fantasy bloom with a distinct, sparkling red eye. Single. Regular foliage.

Alpine Rose — Big bright cherry-pink Supreme blooms that looked like a gorgeous rose. Supreme regular foliage.

Seedling, Mrs. John Buynak.



Ebb Tide, Taylor's African Violets.

WS Sport — Variegated boy type foliage with a nice double, medium pink bloom.

WS Sir Echo — Waved, serrated and pointed light medium green foliage on light petioles. Large pure white semidouble with slightly ruffled petal edges outlined in distinct dark blue and blue eye. Must get this one.

WS Seedling — Bright red Ruffled Queen type bloom with regular Supreme type foliage in a bronzy-green and with a rounded blade edge.

Crape Dawn — Very cupped, ruffled light flesh-pink single. Regular, good substance, small growing medium green foliage. Very, very nice.

MM Seedling — Very round light pink double with a hint of green on full open bloom that looks like heavy cream. Very prolific on deep red bloom stalks. Big, bold, bubbly medium dark green foliage. Pale reverse and pink petioles. Worthy of any collection.

Amanda — Small pointed medium dark green foliage with pale reverse and petioles. Big, full ruffled rose-lavender blooms. Very, very nice.

Seedling, Mrs. John Buynak.



WS Haven — Heavy, fuzzy deep green, modified girl foliage that grows flat. Big, deep red-purple single blooms.

WS Seedling — Nice, light green, slick wavy, serrated and pointed foliage. Nice size, medium pink with a deep pink eye that rays out into each petal almost like a star. A single.

Brilliant Lady — And that she is. A big, brilliantly colored rose-red single on deep green real girl foliage of heavy substance. I like this one very much.

(The MM prefix, of course, means Mary Meeds. Don't know what the WS indicates.)

WILSON

This display is certainly in keeping with our modern times. In fact you might get the idea you have just left the launching pad and are soaring through the atmosphere when you view this set up. A froth of spun glass (like Christmas decoration) makes a cloud on which sits a number of toy space rockets and ships in and among the violets that also nestle in the cloud. The cloud sits over a sky blue skirt on the display table. Backing this is a colored picture of the galaxy and a rocket taking off into space bearing the Wilson title. This is most fitting when you consider that most of their display plants bear space age names.

Trade Wind — A species cross that has semi-species foliage and small blue blooms. Could be a hybridizer's working tool.

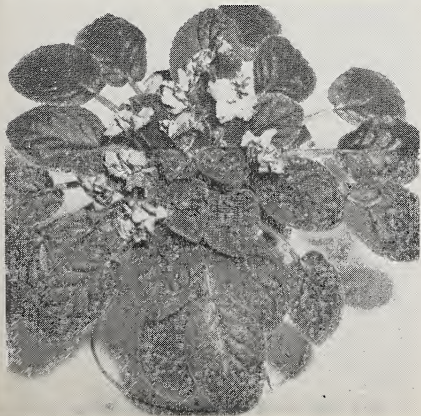
Jupiter — Modern, deep green, very ruffled and waved black-green foliage. Ruffled, deep pink single. Good.

Nike — Modified, rounded to a point, black girl semiscoop. Light orchid bicolor with deeper edge to top petals. Full double.

Lovely Lady Supreme — If you have seen **Lovely Lady** in regular foliage you know just how gorgeous this one is.

Atlas — Very modern, black foliage. Ruffled semidouble dark orchid with darker petal tips and a faint green ruffling on edge. A good show plant.

U. Butterfly, F. M. Haga & Son Greenhouses.



Carolina Sunset, F. M. Haga & Son Greenhouses.

Explorer — Dense black-green ruffles and slick waved foliage with the strawberry foliage characteristic. Dark red reverse. Dark midnight blue medium size semidouble blooms with a wide, bright grass-green fringed petal edge. Very nice and a good one to have.

Juno — Small to medium size semidouble pink with tufted deep pink eye. Prolific. Huge, medium green, rounded, serrated slightly quilted foliage. A huge grower.

Emerald Sea — Another species cross with black, shiny strawberry type foliage. Small blue single. Another good one for the hybridizer.

Pioneer — Similar to **Jupiter** except a much deeper and hotter-colored pink.

Polar Sky — Modern bronzy foliage. Double blue, shading out to a pale edge with green edge. Cupped. New and good.

Sport of Blue Beau — Regular good foliage. Purple, red-orchid and orchid starred blooms all on the same plant. Novel.

Coon Valley — Certainly not a very new one but its goodness cannot be denied.

Redstone — One of the best new seedlings to come from Don Wilson for a long time. A

Wings of Eden, Granger Gardens.





Candy Kid, Granger Gardens.

blossom quite a bit like Fire Dance but not as much bicoloring. More red coloring throughout. A very prolific single. Deep green, long pointed arrow shaped foliage on long reddish petioles. Plant habit is flat and it will become a good show plant.

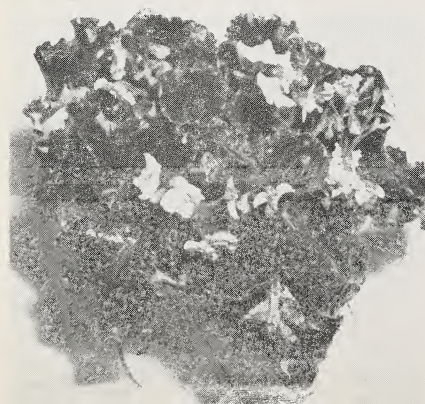
BUYNAK

White and orange flowered organdy material is used as the table top dressing over a pink satin skirt. A white cardboard back with ruby-red letters proclaims the Buynak's "big foliage" display. Many of the super big plants that we have known in the past are on their display as well as some new varieties. The foliage on their newer plants seems to be smaller and should be easier to handle as far as size of the plants is concerned.

Caravan 10C — Modern dark foliage of a medium size with a two-tone orchid semidouble. This will make a very large plant.

There are a number of cuttings with the new colored foliage. Most have dark green basic coloring with streaks, splotches and dots of cream. These colored foliage plants appear to be different from what we have come to expect in our variegated foliage plants.

Candy Lace, Richter's Greenhouses.



Unnamed Seedling — Medium green ruffled foliage. Big, double, pale blue and white ruffled blossoms. Very nice.

Seedling — Big black-green modern foliage. Big two-tone deep orchid single blossoms. Will be a nice plant.

Seedling — The picture of this seedling will say a great deal more than my words. The foliage is big, big as the Caravan series but is very modern with waved edges instead of the deep ruching. Very pretty. Large deep blue single blooms in great profusion.

Oriental Chip — Almost white foliage with bronzy tints and dots of green. Outer leaves are deep green and white. Pink petioles. Small, deep blue double blossoms.

Caravan 10D — Foliage like the unnamed seedling previously mentioned. Small, white and purple mottled ruffled blooms. Good.

HAGA

As at last year's convention, the South is well represented by the Haga's and their display. This year their display is all done in pale blue. Featured in their display is a gorgeous pink and white foliage Episcia called Ember Lace. It has beautiful red-pink blooms. Other Episcias are displayed too. In violets they have some nice ones.

U Butterfly — Huge butterfly shaped red-orchid full double. Regular, pointed boy type foliage but a very interesting plant and should be an excellent show specimen.

White Chiffon — Frilled, deep green Caravan type foliage with small, ruffled, white single blossoms.

Reny — Large light blue with lighter blue upper petals and red bloom stalks. Deep green, serrated, heavy substance foliage. A nice plant.

Painted Dip — Big, ruffled, single white with heavy overlay of rosy-lavender. Slightly ruffled deeper edge to the petals. Regular boy type foliage.

Little Orchid — Light green, waved foliage on long, pale petioles. Pale lavender, very cupped bloom. Three lower petals, very big. Small dip-down upper petals. Very ruffled edge. Darker coloring in upper petals.

Carolina Sunset — Long, pointed, waved, modern foliage on long petioles. Big, light purple, single blooms. Huge lower petals, small dip-down upper petals are green, ruffled green edge all over bloom. Very pretty.

Miss N. C. — Large, very ruffled, semidouble, white with tufting in upper petals. Three lower petals, single. Prolific. Medium green regular foliage with heavy substance and very serrated.

RICHTER

Mrs. Richter's display is an apricot-tan skirt and table top. The table top has black net with gold sequins fluffed around the plants. A stair-step arrangement in the center of the display



Lucky Streak, Richter's Greenhouse.

is covered with the same material as the skirt. Modern six plant brass holders sit on each corner of the table and give the display height.

Winter King — A good, big, prolific single white without the usual gray cast. Deep green regular foliage. A worthy addition to the white single class.

True Blue — Big, very waved, smooth edge modern foliage. Big medium blue round blooms.

Mistletoe — Deep green, slightly waved foliage. Nice white single in great number.

Sky Song — Well described in their ad in the African Violet Magazine.

Tea Rose — Like the above, described in their ad, but worthy of note here as it is an exceptional show plant. Very good growth habit and lots of big double pink blooms.

Crinoline — Shown at the Rochester Convention, and it is still a very striking plant.

Jolly Joker — Mottled blue and white round, single blooms. Modified medium green girl foliage with good substance but not very large.

Bazaar — Very waved, medium green girl foliage with a slight scoop with a green-white throat. Nice size, perky, full double, medium-blue with waved petal edges and lots of pollen sacs showing. Very nice.

Alabaster — Described in their ad and worthy of any collection. A big full double, prolific, white, with lots of green in the bud.

Blaze — Ruffled red pink, single, with a deeper hot red-pink eye. Modern, black foliage.

Snow Drop — Similar to Alabaster and very good.

Lucky Streak — Gorgeous modern foliage in the blackish range. Big, red-purple, ruffled Fantasy type blooms with sparkling reddish eye. Very nice, and a "must have."

Fifi — A huge, waved edge single, medium pink with a powdery look. Big, bold, black waved foliage. A dreamy plant.

Candy Lace — Odd shape, shaded pink and white single with lots of green in small top petals. Good ruffled, waved forest green foliage. A show plant.

Talisman — Bronzy tinted regular heart shaped foliage that is flat growing. Big, lush medium pink colored blooms with a hint of a deeper star shaded through bloom. Very good.

GRANGER

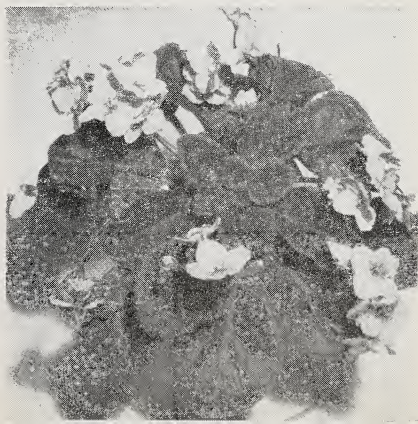
Again, as in previous years, Mrs. Eyerdorn has an original idea for her display. The table is skirted in a deep, bright green with white satin and silver lame' cloth over the table top. The backdrop is an open songbook flanked by large gold sequin covered notes holding a violet plant at the joint of the note and its staff. The large open songbook has a simulated piece of music in two lines on each page. Each note holds a pot of violets with the violet's name in the staff flag. A book marker in Paisley, orange and green gold, divides the book in half. Centered in the middle of the table and the music book background is a raised dais with a magnificent semi-Supreme violet.

Wings of Eden — This is the plant that is centered on their display. An unbelievably large, shaded blue and white full double with a large number of blooms to the stalk. Green buds add the ultimate touch to the blooms. Waved, serrated, deep blue-grass green, semi-Supreme foliage. Pale leaf reverse and petioles. A gorgeous plant.

Crinoline Rose — Nice heart shaped black-green, slick foliage that is quilted. Shaded red reverse and red petioles. Large, shaded lush deep powdered pink with a deeper copper pink shading and copper colored buds. Prolific, with blooms lying in a nest in the crown.

Seedling B-4 — Masquerade type foliage, but more rounded tips. Deep blood-colored bloom stalks and petioles. Large, light-blue with white shading at eye. Sequin sprinkled and very ruffled and waved. Green buds. A gorgeous growing plant and a real show specimen.

Pink Halo, Fischer Greenhouses.



Merry Widow — A big, deeply waved and deeply notched modified girl foliage with deep cream throat. Huge, medium-blue, waved, full double blossoms.

Encore — Nice deep green, shiny, quilted, heart-shaped foliage with bronze tints. Bright powder-pink, full double with lush deeper pink eye.

Peach Chiffon Supreme — What more could anyone say than this is a "must have?"

Finesse — A lush, full double frilled and waved peach-pink shading to blush at petal edges that show green tints. Greenish-copper buds. Nice dark green pointed and serrated foliage. An excellent plant.

Black Watch — Good, heart shaped, black-green, fuzzy and quilted, serrated flat foliage on nice length red petioles. Deep, intense wine-purple, large full double waved petal edges. Very prolific.

Deft Sweetheart — Bronzy-green, waved and serrated Supreme, blush reverse. Huge, semidouble, medium blue with darker eye. Deeply ruffled petals with loose tufted center.

Tweed — Rich forest-green, excellent substance, waved, deeply serrated, roundish leaves. Very ruffled, loose double light mottled wine-purple and white with lots of green showing on back petals. Bronze-green buds. Exceptionally prolific.

Constance Hansen Supreme — Just a huge version of the regular Constance Hansen.

Masquerade Supreme — A larger version of this dream plant.

Cathy Ann — Foliage similar to Finesse with maybe a little deeper lush green coloring. Very full, peachy powder-pink shading, lighter on petal edges. Green buds. Large and prolific.

Misbehavin' — Huge, bright, deep green, waved girl foliage with deep, rounded serration. Very large, deep velvet purple and white full loose double. Some blooms dark, some blooms light. Very ruffled. Some petals with lighter grass green in them. Light grass green buds.

Renegade — A big, bold, flat, deep rose red-purple double. Waved petals and bright yellow pollen sacs that stand out. Very prolific. Excellent regular deep green foliage.

Dolly Varden — A semi-Supreme, a little deeper than Wings of Eden foliage. A huge, very ruffled and fringed warm rose-tinted lavender shading, lighter at petal edges. A loose double and very prolific for a Supreme.

Candy Kid — I went into a tizzy over Lyon's Candy and here is another very much like it. A huge, pure white star over a lavender bloom. A big, bold star or stripe bloom. Very prolific. Excellent bronzy-green quilted, semishiny, boy foliage. Excellent growth habit. A show plant and a "must have."

Mary Suhr — Masquerade or black Holly type foliage. Excellent growth habit. Big mid-blue cupped blooms with ruffled green-white edge. A dreamy plant and certainly one worthy of the name it bears.

V-10 — A small leaved, deep grass-green Supreme with slight scooping. Green petioles. A shapely show plant. Huge, round, flat double blooms of glistening white with a medium blue eye and slight shading. Very prolific. Who would not want this one?

Flora Belle — Small, deep green girl, deeply notched. Gorgeous, tall standing large, pale pink, single shading out to a very pale blush. Slight ruffling and waving on the cupped, semisweet pea blooms. Very sweet.

Fuschia Bride — Huge fuschia red, loose double that can only be described as breathtaking. Gorgeous, dense black-green modified girl foliage that shines like satin. Flat growth habit and intense blooming habit make this a natural for showing.

Double Rosewing — While not new, it is worthy of repeating here that this is the excellent double version of the gorgeous single of several years ago.

Elfin Dream — Big, very heavy substance Supreme, very notched medium green girl foliage that will grow very large and flat with plenty of room. Big, semidouble white and light blue ruffled blooms in profusion.

Winged Beauty — Almost coal black, modified rounded girl foliage that has very rounded notching. Flat and compact growth with pale red reverse. Shaded mauve-orchid, extremely sweet pea type with multiple petals. A showy ruffled edge of pale mint green. Coppery-pink bloom stalks.

Silver Whiteshade — Small, medium green, fuzzy foliage with light petioles and reverse. Large, loose double of palest silver mauve. Almost a shaded white but definitely mauve. Stands up well above the foliage. Prolific.

FISCHER'S

This best professional display boasts a black velvet skirt and backdrop. The table is filled with white sand to resemble the beach. Scattered among the sand are pieces of white coral, various colored and kinds of shells, large and small. Pieces of driftwood are grouped at one end of the table. Yellow and pink fan coral stand at the back of the table against the black velvet backdrop. Draped at each end at the top is fish netting. Fastened to the fish net, at the right hand top corner, is a shell containing a medium pink single with slight raying and a faintly creamy white edge. The Fischer name on a starfish motif sign hangs beside a large shell-shaped sign proclaiming at "Atlantic City By the Sea in 1960."

Sea Foam — Large very ruffled, semidouble wavy ice-white with prominent stamens. Light green, waved foliage.

Davey Jones — Small, dull bronzy-green, wavy and deeply rounded, serrated, hairy foliage with tinted reverse and petioles. Huge, very ruffled, full double, medium blue with darker eye.

Cock Shells — Very ruffled and waved, medium sized, medium pink with lighter upper petals and a nice white edge. Really good, bronzy-green, smooth, very deeply waved, modern foliage. Ohhhh and ahhhh!

Pink Duet — Very deep, warm, sparkling pink with a reddish cast. Lush with a fluted light edge. Small, dark foliage like Cock Shells.

Gallion — You have to see this one to believe it. By actual measurement, the size of the blooms are 2½ inches wide. A warm purple single and unbelievably prolific. Very good, waved, rounded petal, bright green, hairy foliage. By far the best in the classification and a "must" in any collection.

Ice Berg — Large, flat, round, pure white. Huge, fluted and ruffled edge. Good medium grass green, hairy, waved and lightly quilted foliage. Probably will not grow into too large a plant.

Wisteria — Very ruffled or fluted, cupped warm mauve with darker coloring around the eye and raying out into a single petal. Bronzy-green, hairy, lightly quilted and veined, mottled red reverse foliage that is nicely pointed and waved though flat growing habit.

Sand Piper — Huge, very frilled and very ruffled bluish pink with dark pink coloring toward the eye. Green on the outer edge of the frilled petals. Definite bronzy or copper toning to the color. Excellent modern, deep green, slick, deeply waved and rounded. Good.

Treasure Chest — Large rosy-pink of deepest coloring. Big, frilled chartreuse edge on the petals. Bloom flat and round. Good, dark, slick, modern Holly improved foliage. Pale reverse.

Trade Winds — Large, dark blue, very ruffled and fluted single with darker eye and raying. Small, excellent, dark, modern boy foliage.

Pink Coral — Huge, lush pink of a medium shade fading out to a pale flesh edge. Very ruffled and fluted. Excellent medium green, slick, round and waved foliage. Excellent flat foliage and growth habit.

Beach Comber — Frosted rosy-raspberry-pink with darker coloring toward the eye. Light petal edge. Very full and very ruffled and fluted. Copper-tan buds. Big, robust and bold foliage with light mottling on the reverse with red petioles and bloom stems. Very deep waving and rounded notching.

Pink Jade — Full double, large, medium powder-pink with nice fluting. Deep ruffling of bright chartreuse on petal edges. Foliage black-green like Treasure Chest.

Drift Wood — Small, bronze-green waved, serrated foliage with reddish petioles. Large,

deep, velvety-purple with deep ruffles. Bright yellow pollen sacs. Prolific.

Whirlpool — Flower similar to Drift Wood with a lighter purple and not so ruffled petals. Excellent dark green foliage similar to Pink Jade.

Kings Ransom — Very deep grass-green fringing edge, rosy red single blossom that is wide, flaring and flat. Deeper red eye and upped petals shaded lighter. Almost coal black, robust, modern foliage like Pink Coral.

Pink Sea Shell — A huge two inch blossom, by measurement, that is a full double, flat, warm, peach-pink. Regular dark green, small, flat, hairy foliage. A small plant but a "must have."

Glowing Embers — Foliage similar to Pink Jade but a bit darker green. Flat growth habit. You'll never believe this bloom. A large, flaring, deeply ruffled bloom with the three bottom petals a glowing rich magenta red. The two upper petals a nice bright pink and all petals have a faint pinkish-white edge. Ponder this one awhile.

Mermaid — Big, bold, deep forest-green, shiny foliage of good substance. Nicely waved, round, notched with pink petioles and mottled reverse. A big, flat plant. The bloom is a big, flat, semidouble, warm deep pink, very ruffled. A clear color with a hint of fading at edge. Very prolific.

Pink Halo — A wide, flaring, deep pink with darker pink eye and a good, distinct, slightly fluted white edge. Good, regular lightly waved, deep bronzy-green foliage with a sheen, yet hairy. Reddish petioles and reverse. Flat growth and very symmetrical. An excellent addition to the Pink Geneva.

Sea Hawk — A huge, deep glowing, royal purple. Very fluted and robust bloom that is very prolific and held high on deep red bloom stalks. Deepest forest green, large, waved and slick foliage. Good symmetry.

Sea Breeze — Huge, deeply ruffled and fluted, round, flat double, pink with deeper but still light pink coloring at eye. Bronzy-red stem held bloom very high. Deepest hairy-yet-with-a-sheen, forest-green foliage. Flush coloring on back. Waved blade edges, light quilting and veins.

Dancing Waters — A medium pink full double with fluted edges containing some green but a distinct Geneva characteristic of white petal edges. Large, round and robust substance in the bloom. Greenish buds and red bloom stalks. Bronzy-green, shiny, waved, foliage with a hairy characteristic too. A symmetrical plant.

Sea Spider — Good bronze tone grass-green, waved and lightly notched pale reverse foliage. Good shape and flat growth. Nice size round rose type full double, deep blue with fluted edges in bright grass green.

Sea Robin — A real good, large, fluted Sequin type bloom. Prolific on bronzy-red bloom stalks. Foliage similar to Wisteria but heavier substance. Good shaped plant.



Glowing Embers, Fischer's Greenhouses.

Melody Air, Baxter's Greenhouse.



Mer Rouge — Large, round, deepest rose-pink of a lush, warm color with a deeper tone eye and raying. Deep fluting and fringe. Bronze stems with many flowers and buds. Smooth, deepest grass-green, waved edge, rounded, wide serrated robust modern foliage. Mottled reverse and red petioles. Flat growth and good shape. Lovely.

Miss Atlantic City — Lush foliage similar to Beach Comber. Large, round, rosy-pink with a big velvety cerise eye shading out into lower three petals. Good fringe edge of lighter pink. Prolific.

Caribbean — Very heavy, small, waved, deep green, fussy leaves. Very large, full double, medium blue. Very fluted and small fringe. Big, bold, multiple pollen sacs. Big tannish-green buds.

Driven Snow — Nice size pure white flaring semidouble white with center puff. Fluted petals. Small, plain, medium green, hairy leaves. Light green petioles and leaf reverse.

Nautilus — Deepest bronzy-forest-green pointed leaf with deep waves, hairy but with a sheen. Huge, deepest blue, with an even deeper eye. Semicupped with deep, fluted petal edges. Very prolific on deep red bloom stalks. Big, fat, plump buds. A honey.

Sand Stone — A light, blush-pink huge double with copper tints. Camellia type bloom. Bronze stems and green-bronze buds. Big, strong, medium green pointed leaf on short petioles. Waved and slightly quilted. A medium sized plant and a dream.

White Coral — Heavy, deeply serrated, very waved, bright grass-green foliage. Pale petioles and reverse. Nice flat growth habit. Big, fat, green mint buds. Big, heavy substance glistening semidouble white with faint breath of mauve coloring around eye. Very deep waves in petal edges. Petal edges are so curled they look like rams' horns. A nice one.

Sea Nymph — A sprightly reddish bright pink of medium size. Deep fluting with white edge. Lower petals sort of fold back in half. A flashy pink single. Nice size bronzy-green, deeply notched and waved, modern, shiny foliage.

Temptation — And that it is, not to walk away with this one. By measurement, a huge two inch bright pink full double that lies just at the top of the foliage. Deep red bloom stems but pale petioles and leaf reverse. Dull, deep green, small, slightly waved, very hairy foliage. Flat growth. A good one.

BAXTER GREENHOUSE

A sea-green skirt for the display table is carried over the stair step arrangement used on the table top. The background is simulated narrow white bricks embossed in sea-foam green letters depicting the name of the establishment. The lettering is sprinkled with glitter.

Lotus Suntone — You have seen this in the magazine.

Variegated Double Garnet — Regular Double Garnet with variegated foliage.

Variegated Fantasy — Fantasy blossom with variegated foliage.

Variegated Sailor Lad — Double pink with variegated foliage.

Honey Supreme — We all know the lovely honey. Make it supreme and you have a good idea of this gorgeous violet.

Air Waves Supreme — What more needs to be said?

Mayflower — A good description was in the March magazine.

Robin — A bright cherry-red, cupped blossom, single. Small regular foliage.

Melody Air — An older variety but still a tremendously elegant violet. Huge, pink-and-white full, round double.

Magnolia Dream — Peachy-pink, cupped single with red bloom stalks. Small, black boy foliage.

Our Regards — Good regular boy, medium green foliage. Large, waved, bright pink with deeper pink eye. Very prolific. A good one.

Cottontail — So Sweet in the pure white version.

Anniversary Waltz — Old but a nice small flesh-pink double with deeper eye. Dark, medium green, regular foliage.

Decorate — Good heavy substance foliage of a forest-green color. Huge, mottled and streaked, blue and white bloom. An older variety but still good.

Northern Gem — Large pure white semidouble with small, regular, medium green foliage.

Beaming — Everyone likes this one. Regular foliage with a good bright double pink with waved petals. You all know it and it's a good producer.

Vibrant Blue — Large, waved, slick, deep green foliage. Round, rose-shaped medium blue double.

Fleet Dream — In my humble opinion, one of the best of the double pinks. Huge, brilliant, fluorescent pink semidouble blooms in abundance and always full of bloom. Large, bronzy grass-green rounded flat foliage on tinted petioles. Will grow into a huge plant.

Accepted — Waved serrated, medium green foliage. Large, full double white with lavender around the eye.

Frosty News — A waved Supreme type foliage with excellent coloring. Huge, round single white blooms with a faint mauve eye. Very nice.

Kingmaker — Big, deep bright red-pink double. Regular boy foliage. A good plant.

Sport of Big Sweep — Big deep blue single. Marbled, variegated regular foliage.

Royal Watch — A really good royal purple semidouble. Nice, small, waved, dark bronzy-tinted foliage. Nice.

THE VIOLET HOUSE

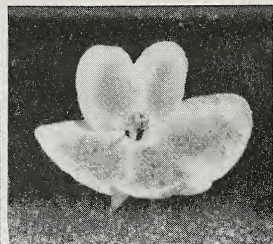
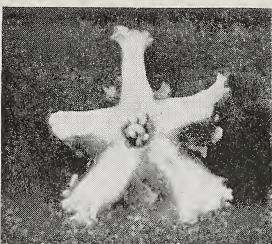
Pearle Turner displays her plants in a pink and green setting. Pink and green skirts on her table with green net arranged in the center of her display on the table top. The center of the table has a white fountain with china birds. The display back is a pink sign proclaiming her trade name. Flanking each side of the backdrop are green, pineapple type foliage plants accompanied with pink decorated small limbs with tiny, pink birds perched therein.

So Sweet Supreme — A gorgeous plant with exceptionally heavy, waved So Sweet type foliage. Huge blooms. For the Supreme lover, this is a "must."

Blushing Beauty — A Vallin plant with light green typical foliage. Big very ruffled and waved, pink and white single blossoms in profusion. A dream.

Lovely Lady Supreme — 'Nuf said.

Maline — Another Vallin plant with the improved Vallin foliage that does not grow on



Left, Blossom Star Holly Single; right, Blossom of Blue Buck. Both from Lyndon Lyon.

long petioles and will lie flat and symmetrical. Medium sized, semidouble mottled pink and white ruffled blooms. Sweet.

Angel Child — Certainly one of the best of the recent Vallin releases. The very waved and ruffled foliage is very similar to Maline. Bloom is full, double pink and white mottled and ruffled. Must be added to any collection.

Double Clarissa Harris — This old favorite in a full double, green, frilly edge blossom that is very large. Dense, dark foliage.

Fringed Nose Gay — Very fringed medium pink and white full double. Light green modern Vallin foliage.

Pink Darkie — Very black-green Vallin foliage. Very fringed, bright, hot red-pink full double. Very pretty.

Double Pink Fire — Very similar to Pink Darkie but may be a bit deeper in color.

Fringed Raspberry — Very fringed raspberry pink blooms. Medium green Vallin foliage.

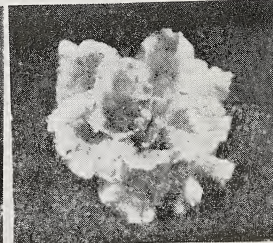
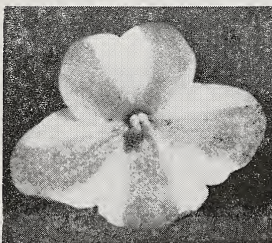
Moss Rose — Very ruffled pink and white semidouble. Light green modern Vallin foliage.

Rose of Tibet — This plant is displayed in a large brandy snifter. A red-pink Brussels Sprout that opens into a huge bloom. Small, pointed foliage. Novel.

LYON

With the terrific new varieties that Lyndon Lyon is displaying here there is not much chance of paying any attention to the display table.

Left, Blossom of Patticake; right, Blossom from Jacob's Coat. Both from Madison Gardens.





Our Regards, Baxter's Greenhouse.

However, it too is all in black, black skirt and black table top covering. A light colored sign proclaims the Lyon name. Plants are arranged in stair-step fashion with a sort of an abutment on either side that also holds plants. Really, these black background displays give accent to the gorgeous coloring of the plants.

D'Amour — Introduced last year but still one of the best.

Star Holly Selections — Ruffled, medium green, pointed, quilted and serrated, small fuzzy foliage with flat growth habits. Large, mottled, rose pink and white double with a tint of green here and there on the petal edges.

Double Black Cherry Sport — Deep velvet red semidouble of fair size with deeper black veined eye shading out into petal. Deep black-green, quilted, serrated, red reverse foliage.

New York Frills (Light) — Huge, very ruffled and deeply fringed tufted center blue and white semidouble. Large, grass-green, deeply crimped edge foliage with pale reverse and petioles. Heavy substance.

ROK — Deep, rich pink full double semistar-shape. A gorgeous colored plant. Small, deep forest-green flat foliage.

Lovely Lady Supreme, The Violet House (E. Pearle Turner).

Holly Doodle — Deep grass-green, waved and deeply serrated foliage with pale petioles. May be semi-Supreme. Large, pure white full double with each petal nicely waved with a blue edge. Very, very pretty.

MSA — Deep, deep green, small regular foliage that is somewhat fuzzy yet shiny. Red petioles and reverse. Deep red bloom stalks hold a big purplish-blue semidouble with tufted center. Nice white edge on the semiruffled petal edges.

Star Holly Selection — Same foliage as the other Star Holly Selections. Big, very ruffled, shaded medium pink star. Some petals have deep grass-green fringe, some do not. New and different.

Pink Holly — Full double deep rose-pink with big chartreuse-green fringed edge. Rounded, deep Holly type foliage. A definite four star selection.

Racy Red — You saw it pictured in the March magazine. It is more beautiful than you can envision. Huge, real red stars on an excellent plant.

CBE — Medium sized, deep green regular foliage with serrated edges and rounded points, good substance and flat growth habit. Big, bold, full double blue and white mottled with always a blue eye. Grand.

MIFF — Sort of bronzy, deeper green than CBE with the Holly characteristics. Large deep cherry rose and white mottled full fringe semidouble with green edge on the petals here and there.

IMJ — Very ruffled and crimped edge deep grass-green foliage with pale petioles and reverse. Good substance. Large white star with a deep frilly lavender edge and shading around the eye. Outstanding pollen sacs. Prolific. A great plant.

Isle of Dreams — Previously described.

Molly Beau — Small deep grass-green foliage with pale petioles. Medium sized, round petal, flat double white with deep pink shading in spots here and there although predominantly white. Blossoms cover foliage. Green buds and green in back of some petals.

MIEE — Deep, bronzy-green, rounded, quilted foliage with slight cupping or pie crusting tendency. Mottled red and green reverse. Deep coloring in the foliage. Huge, flat double, very heavy fringing. Mottled blooms showing deep cerise, raspberry pink, medium pink and white. Really a lush violet.

Blue Buck — Small, flat very pointed, hairy deep veined blue grass green foliage with red reverse and pinkish petioles. Cupped, large flaring white single with light blue shading out in all petals. Almost a blue star overlay.

MIB — Deep blackish green rounded, waved and serrated foliage with dull reddish reverse.



Big, loose, deeply ruffled, shaded bright powdery pink with a large tuft of petals in the center. Very prolific.

New York Frills Sport — Heavy, bright grass green waved and ruffled foliage with deeper green splotches on the leaves. Good and different. Medium size, very, very ruffled and deeply fringed powdery pink and white mottled double blossom. Light green in the bloom here and there with a pinkish tint. Prolific.

Redderness — You all know.

Cloud Fringe — Huge, very ruffled deep royal purple with very fringed lighter edge on a semidouble bloom. Excellent, black modern foliage.

IMI — Huge, pure white, ruffled stars in profusion. No hint of gray. Nice grass-green round foliage that is excellent in substance and of nice size. Strong, small petioles. Flat growth — a white dream.

Star Holly Single — Typical excellent modern Holly foliage. Large blooms of a real star shape with back curling, deep, fringy edge. Deepest cerise red, pink and white all mottled together in one bloom. Tint of green fringe on some blooms. Stands up well above foliage. A "must."

IME — Very similar to IMI, but the very deeply fringed and waved petals have a blush of lavender on the fringe edge. Another dream.

Star Holly Selection — Flat, loose, semidouble, pale pink with deep raspberry red eye and deep grass-green petal edges on most all blooms. Foliage like the other Star Holly Selections.

Sin Purple — Smart patent leather Holly type foliage. Very large velvet purple, full double with deep fringe. Very deep colored crested center.

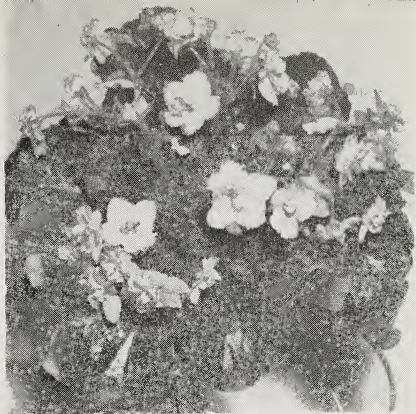
My Choice — Good bright grass-green flat, round, modified girl foliage with excellent growth habits. Blush pink and white full double blooms that are huge. Each bloom has a deep powder-pink with green petal edges on young blooms. Very, very good.

TAYLOR'S AFRICAN VIOLETS

The Taylor's display is draped in yellow, both the skirt and table top. Two steps on the table top are used to display their gorgeously grown and groomed plants. Their exhibit is of plants we have known from other growers and to say the least they have done themselves proud as their plants bespeak quality throughout. Imagine if you can, huge symmetrical specimen plants with loads of beautiful blooms. Their foliage is very deep in color and vibrates with good conditioning. They display plants of the following:

Ebbtide.

Ann Hoffman — A gorgeous Supreme Strike rosy pink. Deep red bloom stalks. Excellent Me Pink.



Angel Child, The Violet House (E. Pearle Turner).

Blue Sapphire — Excellent Supreme foliage and huge, deep blue single blooms.

Faberge — Tremendous foliage on this plant and excellent double pink blooms.

Double Black Cherry.
Kimberly.

Double Valiant — An excellent double version of Sparkling Waters.

Sweet Clover — Semidouble clover pink with very nice medium green serrated slightly waved and scooped foliage.

Coon Valley.

Mid Victorian — Black, modified girl foliage of tremendous size and large purple Geneva type blooms in profusion.

Shag.

Melo.

Pink Geneva.

Masquerade.

T-V Scandal.

Encore — Bright green, very heart-shaped foliage. Deep, rounded serrating and excellent quilting. Deep, pink full double. Prolific.

MADISON

The oriental influence is evident in the display of Madison Gardens. Mrs. Rand always chooses the nicest color combinations, and this year is no exception. Pale pink lower skirt with a rose-pink flounce and table top cover is used in combination with a pale blue Styrofoam star studded backing. A gold and pink glitter covered mosque sits on a mirror in the center of the display.

Double Pink Cameo — Displayed for the first time last year. Still a terrific double pink Supreme.

Pink Alaska — A huge, round Supreme cream white with distinct pink eye. Deep green small Supreme boy type foliage.

Jade Pink — Large ruffled, bright semidouble

ruffled deep bronzy-green, semi-Supreme foliage of excellent substance.

Easter Morn — Small, ruffled, serrated, bronzy boy foliage. Large, round blue and white mottled double with greenish buds.

Silver Sheen — Heavy, medium green, medium sized foliage that is waved and serrated. Huge, ruffled single white edged in light blue. Shaded eye. Oh boy, a nice one.

Jacob's Coat — Heavy substance, deep green quilted, fuzzy foliage of medium size. Huge, ruffled full double plum red-orchid and white or variations of these colors in all extremes. A "must have."

Peter Pan — Similar to Easter Morn, but blue and white.

Raspberry Sherbet — Foliage similar to Peter Pan. The bloom is a huge, ruffled full double lavender-orchid with a shaded cerise eye and Fantasy markings. Very different and a "must" in any collection of the newest in violets.

Fairy Land White — Full double white that is huge and large green buds. Foliage like Peter Pan.

Alamo Rose — Deep but bright rose red pink full double. Prolific on blood red bloom stems. Small, black pointed boy type foliage. Very good.

Chapel Boy — Huge, rich purple ruffled full double. A round blossom on red bloom stalks and very prolific. Small modern Holly type foliage.

Patticake — I fell in love with Lyon's Candy when he showed it in Cincinnati. Now we have another very similar. A huge white with a medium pink star. Small heavy boy semi-Supreme foliage. My kingdom for a plant of this one.

Blue Le Fluor — Good regular boy foliage Big, ruffled medium blue with darker eye.

May Flower — Small deep green semi-Supreme boy. Large round loose double in variegated blue and white.

Geisha Girl — Large, ruffled, plum orchid, semicupped waved single. Prolific, modern, dark medium sized foliage.

TAY-BOW

A white skirt and a pale green with gold thread cover sets the stage for the yellow backing to Tay-Bow's display. On one side of the display is a Tay-Bow sign and balancing the display on the other is a Japanese girl doll on a pedestal. Very pretty arrangement. Sitting on the table are a number of excellent violets, all bearing the "Bud's" prefix.

The Mikado — Modified black girl foliage. Deep, deep purple full double. A gorgeous violet and very good.

Wandering Minstrel — Very flat, black oak or modified girl foliage. Medium size semidouble deep blue blooms.

Yum Yum — Round, flat black modified girl. Peach pink semidouble. Deep red bloom stalks. Very good. Bud Brewer can get good foliage on his girl type plants.

Petti Sing — Warm flesh pink cupped with tiny tuft over eye. Small dark green, pointed, deeply serrated foliage.

Mint Ice — Waved, ruffled medium green and bright chartreuse-yellow variegated foliage. Very ruffled, cupped white with slight orchid eye coloring.

Mint Marble — Similar to Mint Ice. A more ruffled bloom.

Mint Popcorn — Again foliage similar to above with a big bloom, and very prolific.

Winter Mint — Foliage the same as the other mints. Sweet pea type single white with faint lavender eye tint. Prolific.

Strike Me Pink — You all know. Strike Me Blue and Strike Me Purple are just the same but with the coloring as denoted by their names.

Mint Honey — Dark green quilted foliage variegated with a tannish cast. Different. Gorgeous pale mauve and lavender-bi and the petals glisten. Semidouble tufted center. Gorgeous.

Peppermint — Modern dark foliage with a hint of mottling on edges and in the crown. Gorgeous pale mauve ruffled sweet pea type large bloom. Deeper eye and shading into upper petals.

Mint Champagne — Gorgeous large light lavender shading darker in the upper petals, tufted semidouble. Foliage like Mint Honey.

Mardi Gras — Not too new but a pretty thing. Large lavender blue double with a hint of a light Geneva edge in green. Green buds. Small flat ear or modified flat dark girl foliage with red reverse.

Pink Begonia — Very cupped bright pink single. Deep red-pink eye and very prolific. Modified flat, big bronzy green girl. Red reverse and red bloom stalks.

Well, we have completed our tour of the Amateur and Commercial Shows at Thirteenth Annual Convention. Each show was excellent. The professional people made this a rather voluminous report. Needless to say, a great deal of time was spent in collecting these descriptions. If this report has furnished any one a bit of pleasure — has helped those that attended the Convention relive it again — or perhaps took those who did not attend on an imaginary tour through the Shows — it was time well spent. I thoroughly enjoyed it and hope you all did too.

One last thought, and then the Detroit Convention will become a cherished memory to live in my subconscious until my next one — Atlantic City you have a tremendous task ahead of you for 1960! ! end

Best 100

The BEST 100 African violets for this year have again been selected by popular vote. The tabulation was made from your Choice Twenty-Five lists.

R — designates Registered plants; the numbers — the vote each plant received.

Buyer's Guide Committee

1. White Madonna, R. — 676
2. Ohio Bountiful, R. — 371
3. Granger Gardens Blue Nocturne, R. — 336
4. Bud's Strike Me Pink, R. — 326
5. White Pride, R. — 318
6. Black Magic, R. — 313
7. White Pride Supreme, R. — 308
8. Pink Miracle, R. — 264
9. Double Pink Cloud, R. — 259
10. Ruffled Queen, R. — 241
11. T-V Vallinpink, R. — 235
12. Snow Prince, R. — 225
13. Pink Cheer, R. 222
14. Dixie Moonbeam, R. — 213
15. Lorna Doone, R. — 212
16. Boyce Edens, R. — 208
17. White Puff, R. — 203
18. Bud's Kimberly, R. — 197
19. Azure Beauty, R. — 176
20. Fischer's Fire Dance, R. — 173
21. T-V Cut Velvet, R. — 162
22. Blue Pom — 157
23. Evelyn Johnson, R. — 145
24. Blue Peak, R. — 145
25. Holiday, R. — 143
26. Navy Bouquet, R. — 141
27. Pink Petticoats — 129
28. Black Cherry — 127
29. Pink Ideal, R. — 126
30. Ruthie — 125
31. Purple Knight — 106
32. Bridesmaid, R. — 106
33. Star Pink (new), R. — 105
34. Fascination, R. — 103
35. Fantasy, R. — 99
36. Rose Wing — 97
37. Redderness — 96
38. Emperor Wilhelm, R. — 94
39. Edith Cavell, R. — 92
40. Mary Thompson — 92
41. Sea Sprite — 90
42. So Sweet, R. — 86
43. Dresden Dream, R. — 86
44. Meteore — 84
45. My Sin, R. — 83
46. Minnesota — 83
47. Lovely Lady, R. — 82
48. Air Waves, R. — 82
49. Granger Gardens Santa Maria, R. — 80
50. Cydonia — 77
51. Double Pink Cheer, R. — 77
52. Drops 'O Wine — 77
53. Sir Lancelot, R. — 74
54. Iris, R. — 73
55. Bernice, R. — 71
56. Painted Girl, R. — 70
57. Thunderhead, R. — 70
58. T-V Swirling Petticoats, R. — 70
59. Granger Gardens White Orchid, R. — 70
60. Granger Gardens Cara Mia, R. — 70
61. Invader, R. — 70
62. Spic, R. — 69
63. Span, R. — 66
64. Star Blue — 66
65. Bud's Pink Waltz, R. — 64
66. Granger Gardens Ebb Tide, R. — 63
67. Fancy Pants, R. — 63
68. Pink Cushion, R. — 63
69. Clarissa Harris — 61
70. Double Pink Puff, R. — 59
71. Frivolella — 59
72. Cavalier, R. — 58
73. Chaska — 57
74. Mark Robert, R. — 56
75. Double Black Cherry — 54
76. Naomi's Afterglo, R. — 54
77. Red King, R. — 53
78. Innocence, R. — 52
79. McFarland's Blue Warrior, R. — 52
80. Fischer's Spotlight, R. — 51
81. Sailor's Delight, R. — 50
82. Pink Camellia — 49
83. Saint Louis — 49
84. Minnetonka, R. — 49
85. Double Neptune, R. — 49
86. Valor, R. — 47
87. Pansy — 45
88. Violet Beauty, R. — 42
89. Granger Garden's Dorothy Gray, R. — 42
90. Fringed Pompon — 42
91. Lavenda — 42
92. Pink Caress — 41
93. Show Man — 40
94. Crusader, R. — 40
95. Sparkling Waters, R. — 38
96. Blue Heiress, R. — 38
97. Grangers Double Edith Cavelle, R. — 38
98. Lilac Dale, R. — 38
99. Pandora, R. — 38
100. Raspberry Red — 37



Left, Mrs. Smith and her living room plant display on a Flora Cart.



Right, watering her African violets was simplified for Mrs. Smith with Mr. Smith's assistance. Water is piped overhead to a long swinging arm with a piece of rubber tubing with a faucet.

UP NEW HAMPSHIRE WAY

Frances Smith, Laconia, New Hampshire

As I visit other violet growers, I pick up new ideas that seem good to me, and I come home and try them out.

This year I was introduced to a new violet leaf rooter called GUNK. This is put up by Mr. Crognan Gault, Suncook, New Hampshire. It works very well. Cut the leaves as usual, and put them in a small bottle containing GUNK. It is a greenish liquid. In two or three weeks, when the roots have formed, transfer the rooted leaves to vermiculite. If I am in a hurry for new plants, I put these rooted leaves directly under my lights. I find a tomato box lined with plastic and filled with vermiculite makes a good container for started leaves. I also put started leaves in small pots. I write the name of the variety on a small piece of adhesive tape and stick it on each leaf, unless all the leaves in a container are alike, then it isn't necessary to mark each one.

When the small plantlets are large enough, each one is put in a two and one-half inch pot and put under the lights. These are shifted into three

inch pots as soon as they are fair sized plants, usually after they have blossomed once. I like the plastic pots better than the clay, and my customers do also. The plastic pots are more attractive, require less watering, and are lighter.

I have mixed my own soil, but have not been wholly satisfied with it. For the past year I have added half Black Magic Violet Mix, and the plants seem to blossom very well.

This summer I visited Lyndon Lyon's greenhouse, and was interested to find that he is using the U.C. mix for his plants. They surely looked as though it agreed with them. I am interested in trying it, but have not been able to get all the ingredients around here.

My violet room is a large upstairs room that was not finished when we remodeled our house. When my violet family kept increasing and I started selling, this seemed an ideal place for the plants. My husband made me four stands with three tiers each. The stands are on large ball-bearing wheels so they can be moved. He also made galvanized trays for each tier, and in

these I have either vermiculite or chicken grits. I put V-C 13 in the trays as a preventive against nematodes.

There is a two tube forty watt fluorescent light with reflector over each tier. For some time I have used the daylight tubes, but recently have been replacing them with one warm white in each fixture. Most of the lights are about fourteen inches from the bottom of the trays to the light tubes. Some are closer, for the smaller plants. The stands are in the center of the room, and around the walls, under the windows, are tables where I put containers with started leaves. I keep any new plants I get in my laundry room, away from my other plants, until I feel sure they are free of disease.

Up to two years ago, I had to carry the water for my plants from the bathroom to the violet room. So my husband thought up a watering system for me. From a mixer valve, which I can adjust for warm water, the water is piped overhead to a long swinging arm, with a piece of rubber tubing with a faucet that I can open and shut with my thumb. This swings around the

room and the tube is long enough so that I can easily water all my plants. This is a big help and saves me a lot of time. You can see the watering system in the picture.

I also have a Flora Cart in my living room, with blossoming plants for sale. It isn't necessary to take customers upstairs, unless they are interested in small plants or in something special. The Flora Cart and the stands in the violet room are on time switches, set for fourteen hours a day.

I usually have about one thousand plants in various sizes, and about two hundred and fifty varieties.

There are not many members of the African Violet Society around here, and no violet club in New Hampshire that I know of. The African Violet Magazine helps me keep in touch with what other people are doing with their plants, and I enjoy reading about the National Shows. In the summer, visitors from other states drop in, and it is always interesting to talk with them.

end

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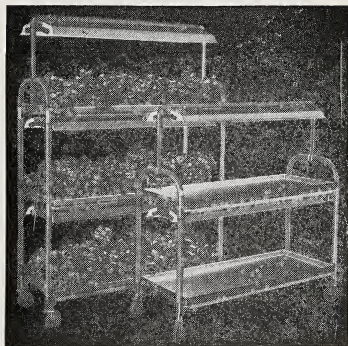
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CLASS — Three specimen plants (1 true purple, 1 pink, and 1 white, any variety) scoring the highest points. Each plant must score at least 85 points. These plants are to be entered in the regular classes for true purples, pinks, and whites.

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- 1953 — Mrs. Ronald B. Reaume, Detroit, Michigan.
- 1954 — Mrs. E. L. Perdue, Donaldson, Tennessee.
- 1955 — Rev. Harold L. Thompson, Birmingham, Michigan.
- 1956 — Mrs. L. A. Beck, St. Joseph, Missouri.
- 1957 — Mrs. J. R. Bush, Muncie, Kansas.
- 1958 — Mrs. Edward Casey, Rochester, New York.
- 1959 — Mrs. Clarence Kuder, Bowling Green, Ohio.

VIOLETS AROUND THE WORLD

Helen Montgomery, Kansas City, Missouri

Geography was always one of my favorite subjects in school. Raising African violets is my favorite hobby. A combination of the two, geography and African violets, would naturally be of great interest to me, and it is for this reason I have enjoyed so much the letters I have received from time to time from collectors, friends and customers in other parts of the world, concerning growing and caring for African violets. I am giving a few excerpts from these letters, and showing the name of each writer and the country in which he or she resides. I hope that each of you will enjoy and profit by these letters from various parts of the globe, as much as I have.

Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia

... I cut my leaves at an angle and put them in water for one week, then plant them in two inch pots of vermiculite. I have a cupboard I have constructed myself. I put them on the inside where the temperature stays between seventy and eighty degrees. I give them fourteen hours of daylight fluorescent light, and ten hours of darkness, with one hundred percent humidity.

I split the babies in six to eight weeks, planting them in one and one-half inch clay pots. After two months I transplant them to three inch clay pots. I use one-half black soil, one-fourth vermiculite and one-fourth compost and fertilizer for my soil mixture. ...

Yours sincerely,
PETER HANIBALL

San Salvador,

El Salvador, Central America

... In El Salvador, many people cultivate gesneriads, especially African violets. We are very proud of this beautiful plant. I have more than three hundred and fifty varieties, and many beautiful seedlings.

I have many happy surprises from seeds. I lost many seeds because I used river sand and vermiculite; the sand was contaminated with poisons. Now I always use half sphagnum moss and half pumice sand, steam-sterilized, with happy results.

I prefer to root the leaves in water so I can see if the stem is healthy. If not, I cut it back ... I put the rooted leaves in flat, round pots with the following rooting medium: one-half pumice sand, one-quarter vermiculite, one-quarter good garden soil.

For my plants I prefer the small two and one-half inch pots. My potting mixture is: one-third pumice sand, one-third cow manure, charcoal, one-third garden soil, all steam sterilized. I fertilize my plants once a week with a soluble plant food, half the strength indicated. I prefer top watering, with water that runs seventy degrees Fahrenheit.

... I have constructed a solarium. The roof is made with porous bricks to wet it thoroughly during the hot, dry season. ... We have three major pests: nematodes, mites and mealy bugs. I use V-C 13 to control nematodes, sodium selenate from Neil Miller, the extra dilute method, to control mites, and spray once a week with Malathion for mealy bugs.

My favorite twenty-five varieties are: Blue Nocturne, Black Magic, Santa Maria, Navy Bouquet, Sailor Girl, Lavender Lady, Blue Peak, Pink Celebrity, White Madonna, White Pride, White Lark, Snow Prince, Shining Prince, Sea Sprite, Fantasy, Mary Thompson, Pink Miracle, Pink Cheer, Pink Cushion, Pink Feather, Ruffled Triumph, Show Man, Meteore, Bridesmaid and Azure Beauty.

I remain,

Yours truly,
DR. MANUEL SALINAS ARIZ

Naples, Italy

The first African violets I saw in Italy were at the Royal Palace at Caserta, a few miles from Naples. They were in the tropical plant section of the English Garden, growing outdoors in the shade, with rare and exotic plants. There was one variety with hairy foliage and single dark blue blossoms. Dahliafleur, in Sanremo, now has twenty-five selected varieties that were chosen from over two hundred thousand seedling plants. I have not seen any double varieties in Italy or Germany. We have just returned from a trip to Germany where we visited several cities and saw beautiful violets, all a lovely shade of blue.

After months of searching, I finally found a florist in Naples who would get me plants. He said they were out of season, so I was expecting plants with no blooms. On the contrary, they were in full bloom and kept right on blooming. I still don't know what they call "the season." The three varieties I purchased are unnamed: A deep pink, a glistening white and a dark purple with girl type leaf. All are singles and prolific bloomers.

When I transplanted them I found a dead worm in each pot. I had watered with insecticide so I think the worms were alive when I bought the plants. I also think they were put there to help aerate the soil.

I start my plants in rooting medium from Neil Miller, using two and one-half inch pots and pans. When the leaves have rooted, I fertilize them with Plant Marvel. I mix the solution the same as for plants, but give them a smaller amount. When the plants are approximately two inches high, I divide them and plant them in two and one-half inch pots filled with soil. We live in an apartment and it would be very difficult to obtain the proper soil mixture, so I order sterilized, prepared soil from the States. When a plant has been transplanted to fresh soil, I wait approximately six weeks before fertilizing. I then use Plant Marvel every two weeks.

I have my plants close to French doors, with French windows at the other end, where they receive good light in the winter, summer, or on cloudy days. The light is balanced so I have no problem with plants drawing to the light. There is plenty of moisture in the air in summer, but in the winter, with kerosene heaters, I have to have peat moss around the plants, and have to keep the heaters far enough away from the plants so that the heat and fumes do not damage them. The heaters are turned off at night, so some nights the temperature drops to around fifty degrees. The temperature seldom exceeds eighty-six degrees during the summer months in Naples, so I have no problem of high temperature and high humidity. Because of the lack of insulation and weather stripping, apartments are drafty and cold in the winter. It is next to impossible to have an apartment too warm in the cold, windy weather.

Heading the list of my favorite varieties are: Navy Bouquet, Giant Rose Pink, Clementine, Meg and Lorna Doone.

Sincerely,
NAOMI LEDFORD

Palmer, Alaska

I am very delighted to give you some information from the new state of Alaska. I have been living here for ten years. I have been working with African violets for five or six years, and it is just during the last two years that I have sort of caught on to growing them. I have been using sand and Black Magic Planter Mix for rooting leaves. My worst problem is that I am too impatient. The leaves that I purchased from you are all doing fine in the Black Magic. I lost one leaf, and that was my fault as I dropped it and then stepped on it.

I have ten plants that are blooming beautifully. I feed them about twice a month with some

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shortest days are five and one-half hours of daylight, and on those days they should have the full sunshine. The days lengthen and shorten gradually, and it is really beautiful. We are at sea level here, and surrounded by mountains.

We are able to buy everything here that is available in the States, so our growing conditions are much the same except for the long, long days and the short, short days. I keep my plants in a south window. The same room has a large east window, so my plants get the sun from about four a.m. until we get up at about seven. I watch them until it starts to get too warm, then I move them until the south window is shady but has plenty of light. Maybe it is too much light in summer, but the plants really do well. One can notice that they don't have enough light in the winter, but they show an improvement when the days get longer. The short days last from late November until late February, and that is the time of year that most plants are dormant, so I just let them take it easy. The ones that are still blooming are given some extra (artificial) light until they are through blooming. Seems as though I have some blooming most of the time . . . I have thirty now, ten of them are blooming and I think (with good luck) that by fall the others will be ready. . . .

Sincerely,
ITA ZAHRADNICEK

Durban, Natal, South Africa

To live in Durban is to be fortunate, as at no time is artificial heat or humidity required. Winter temperatures rarely drop below fifty degrees, nor does the summer temperature rise high enough to affect the plants. With this ideal climate, violets grow as if they are being paid overtime. As Durban and district is the premier African violet growing area in Southern Africa, I would like to pay tribute to Miss Muriel Marshall, my personal friend and tutor. She,

more than anyone else, has pioneered African violets by importing new varieties, and by giving freely of her expert knowledge to all growers. At the recent big winter flower show in the City Hall, a joint display by Miss Marshall and Mrs. Knight attracted the most attention. This proves the amazing popularity of these plants, which were practically unknown a few years ago. My favorite plant is T-V Vallinpink, although there are many others which run it a close second, especially the Stars.

My soil mixture is that of Miss Marshall's. Ten leaf mould (Australians note: wattle is best), four steer manure, four coarse sand, six peat moss, two fine charcoal, one-half bone or hoof-and-horn meal, one-half superphosphate. This mixture has proven the best of all I have tried.

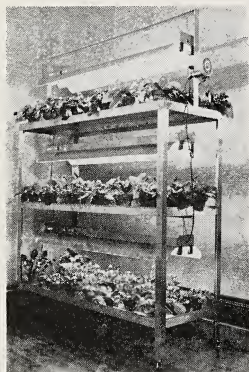
In spite of our strong light, some varieties definitely do best under lights, such as Pink Ideal, the Stars, Sugar Babe, etc. Pink Miracle is a must for lights.

Due to the high cost of importing leaves, most growers consult the others so as to avoid ordering what is already in the country. This plan enables us to have practically every worthwhile American variety. At the moment, everyone is eagerly going through the Convention report and compiling lists of what they are going to order. . . .

Yours sincerely,
H. W. J. (BILL) SPECKHAN

Remuera, Auckland, New Zealand

Auckland is the largest city in New Zealand and is situated on the narrowest part of the north island. The climate is subtropical, temperatures averaging sixty-five degrees in summer and fifty-five degrees in winter. I have African violets in flower all the year round, although summer time, November to April, is the go-ahead period. I have a bush house where I grow Blue Warrior



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Wausau, Wis.

and S. Grotei; these are growing on moss and dicksonia fibrosa mixed with New Zealand ferns, and in the spring and summer they just go wild.

My favorites are: Pink Puff, Ohio Bountiful, Red King, Pink Achievement, Blue Peak, Double Pink Cloud, Edith Cavell, Polar Ice, Flamingo, Georgia Peach, Revelation, Purple Knight, White Madonna and Rose Wing.

Sincerely yours,
F. W. COLE

Sydney, Australia

My experience with African violets began some three years ago with the chance purchase of a plant with a pretty double pale blue flower. I knew absolutely nothing about them (though I am a fair gardener) and had no premonition of what that pretty flower was to let me in for. Shortly after, I happened to visit the nursery of Mrs. Dorothy Painter at Castle Hill, thirty miles from Sydney, where the sight of hundreds of violets in bloom lured me into buying several more. (Mrs. Painter introduced named African violets to Australia and is, by far, the largest grower in this country.)

Well, many months and many plants passed away, to my acute disappointment. I tried and I tried, but African violets would not grow for me. Eventually an English book by Mrs. Margaret E. Jones came my way, and I found out at long last that cyclamen mite was the culprit and sodium selenate the remedy. Mrs. Painter, ever helpful, recommended Parathion spraying, but I could not use this poison indoors. So, I hunted for sodium selenate and finally tracked it down. By this time, I had happened on Helen Van Pelt Wilson's book, so I adopted the extra dilute solution she recommends. I applied it with a rubber ear syringe in small doses, at irregular intervals, on wet or dry soil. It seemed to make no difference, for I never lost a plant. From the youngest to the oldest, all plants were dosed.

From then on, success! Relieved of mite, my plants started growing and quickly began to yield their bounty of flowers. I reclaimed many plants that were on the verge of being discarded.

The only other trouble I have ever had is crown rot through overwatering.

The Sydney climate comprises long, hot summers with extreme humidity, and short but cool winters. In summer, my plants live in a small greenhouse of plastic screen wire, "Windolite," shaded with Hessian on the outside. They are sprayed morning and night with a "fogger" on the garden hose, and are well ventilated. In winter, they must be moved indoors where the temperature is warmer, but still very cool for African violets, varying from the low fifties at night to the low sixties in the daytime. I have no heating system except a gas fire.

At this writing, I have some fifty plants in bloom and bud in east windows shaded by Venetian blinds, which I tilt so that the light

comes from the top. Some one hundred and fifty plantlets and leaf settings are in two fluorescent light set ups, one in the kitchen with the gas stove. These cold days I water pots individually with warmed water, from the top mostly, and only when bone dry. Even so, I occasionally find that I have overwatered one and its leaves are limp. I do not sterilize soil or pots; I use Power-R Caps fertilizer occasionally if I feel a plant needs a boost.

Unfortunately I have no one to share my enthusiasm with except Mrs. Painter, as African violets are not a popular house plant here, having earned the reputation of being "cranky." Only real enthusiasts take them on, and I have not met another amateur grower on the same scale. In the meantime, I am encouraging admirers of my own plants by gifts of plants and advice.

As I said at the start, little did I know what that pretty blue flower was letting me in for. It was so insidious, too! First, a few more plants, then pots, soil, sprayers, books, fluorescent lights, a plant cabinet, a greenhouse; and, when I was in the United States recently, fertilizers, planter trays, and a big batch of leaves, which I brought back to Sydney at some trouble and expense. Needless to say, I have now joined the African Violet Society!

Yours sincerely,
ALICE HOUGH

end

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RECHSTEINERIA LINEATA

right

A larger plant than *R. CYCLOPHYLLA*, this Brazilian native reached the U. S. A. from Sweden, where it was sent in 1937. *RECHSTEINERIA LINEATA* is named for the bright red streaks of color on the pale green stems. Its flowers are darker red than those of *cyclophylla* and the plants remain longer in bloom on larger and more robust plants.

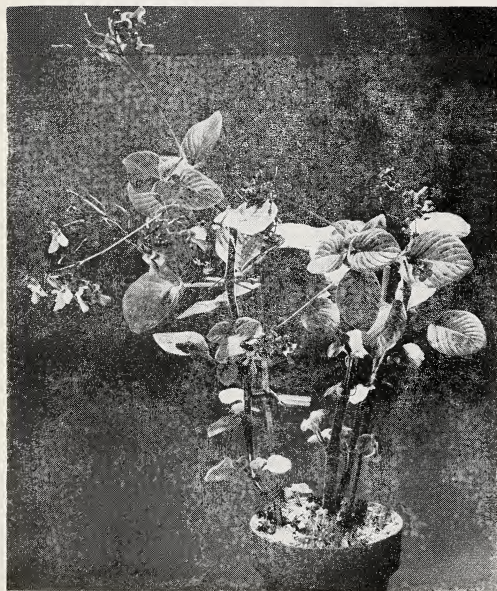
The plant in the picture is several years old and has grown a parsnip-shaped tuber that is about 10 inches long. The plant has flowered three years in the same pot, or rather redwood tub, without changing the soil. Monthly feeding with nutrient solution appears to maintain the plant in flowering condition.



STREPTOCARPUS CAULESCENS

Below

People familiar with *STREPTOCARPUS REXII* and allied sorts found in South Africa, call them "Cape Primroses" in reference to



the Cape of Good Hope and the primula effect of stemless plants with leaves springing from the surface of the ground. It is not so generally known that in the Usambara Mountains of East Africa, in the neighborhood where the Saintpaulias or "Usambara Violets" are found, there are branching sorts of *Streptocarpus* bearing no resemblance to primula. They belong to the *Streptocarpus* genus nevertheless as anyone can see from their twisted carpes or seed pods.

The first of these caulescent (branching) *Streptocarpus* to be described (by Georg Carl Wilhelm Vatke in an Edinburgh publication, 1883) is shown in the accompanying illustration. This is *STREPTOCARPUS CAULESCENS* having pale lavender or lilac flowers, according to the Botanical Magazine of 1885, though our specimen had deep blue-purple flowers. These are borne in clusters or cymes at the tips of long, slender, upright peduncles.

Although plants of flowering size are a foot or more tall, *STREPTOCARPUS CAULESCENS* is manageable in the window garden. It grows quite rapidly from cuttings which root readily, and can be kept within bounds by judicious pinching.



STREPTOCARPUS HOLSTII

Described first in 1893, *STREPTOCARPUS HOLSTII* is another member of the caulescent or branching group of "African violet" relatives from East Africa.

It is more refined than *S. CAULESCENS*, has larger and more attractive flowers of a clear, bright blue color with a contrasting white spot at the center. Grown in a 4 inch pot, with a few short supporting stakes, *S. HOLSTII* makes a very interesting indoor plant with its plentiful, bright flowers and the attractive "pleated" green leaves.

This strikingly beautiful plant appears to have entered the United States in August 1955 when Mr. Martin S. Sawyer, in Gatun, C. Z., sent it to Mrs. Catherine B. Shepherd at Arlington, Virginia. Mr. Sawyer obtained the plant from Mr. Henry Butcher, an orchid hunter in Panama.

Propagations from the original import, grown for three years in Virginia and in Ithaca, New York, have never flowered but a lavish display of bloom occurred in 1958 on a plant grown at Binghamton, New York which furnished herbarium specimens both for the Bailey Hortorium at Cornell University and the U. S. National Museum at the Smithsonian Institution. Study of the latter material enabled Mr. C. V.



COLUMNEA MOORII

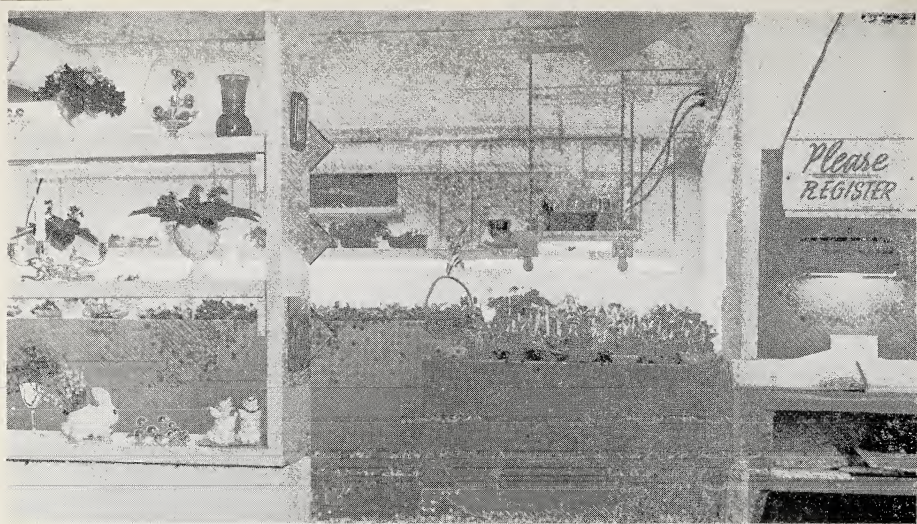
STREPTOCARPUS 'PEED'S SUPERB'

This is a British strain or seed line of the Rexii-type of *Streptocarpus*, commonly called "Cape Primrose." The flowers are predominantly blue and violet in color on long, erect peduncles. The flowers occur singly though two or even three may occur on a stem.

This strain is remarkably easy to grow from seed and is rather widely grown in the United States from seed supplied by Thompson & Morgan, Ltd., of Ipswich. Like all the *Streptocarpus* of the Rexii-type, they may be kept in flower over a rather long season.

This plant may be found in some collections incorrectly labeled *COLUMNEA GLAUCA*, a name assigned to unflowered material in anticipation. The real *COLUMNEA GLAUCA* has leaves resembling those of *C. MOORII* but it is not known to be in cultivation in the United States today.

The accompanying photograph was made in April 1959. The plant was growing in a wire hanging basket lined with sheet moss and filled with a porous mixture of shredded bark, sphagnum peat, sand, and a very little fibrous loam. This growing medium has been kept constantly moist and the plant located in subdued light in a greenhouse having a night temperature of 60°F.



Mrs. Rienhardt's attractive basement plant room.

A DREAM COME TRUE

Cordelia Rienhardt, Syracuse, New York

What is the dream of ninety-nine percent of the African violet growers, whether amateur or commercial? Why, more space in which to grow them, of course. When I was asked to write a story for the magazine, I couldn't think of what I might have to say that would prove generally interesting to you readers, but we had just finished our new room in the basement and my enthusiasm was waxing pretty strong in that direction. For some time I had been feeling rather cramped for space and wishing I had more room so we could grow more of the seedlings that my husband had coming along. Like everyone else, we had long since moved to the basement and were growing under fluorescent lights, but like most basements it was still a cellar and rather hard to beautify. I dreamed of a good sized room that could be fixed up and allow room for the plants to be properly displayed.

When we built our house in 1951, we didn't excavate under the living room, thinking that we had all the basement we could ever want, but that was before the days of African violets around here. When we moved in the house I think I had just twenty-six plants. Picture windows are lovely to look out, but they certainly are not made to hold plants; mine didn't even have a windowsill that didn't slope, so my husband, being the accommodating type, built three wooden shelves on the dining-room windows and painted them to match the woodwork. My twenty-six plants fitted fine, but somehow little starters began to appear and I soon had to find room.

I couldn't resist that urge to try growing some from a leaf, and well, you all know the answer to that or you wouldn't be reading this magazine.

One table led to another in the basement, and I began casting covetous glances in the direction of the crawl space under the living room. A family conference was held, and two men were hired to dig out the space. Of course it had to be done the hard way, dug out and the dirt thrown out the window, and the men we hired quit by noon of the first day, saying that it couldn't be done, that it was practically solid rock. Things were at a standstill for a while, but those men had not reckoned with an avid violet grower in need of space when they said it couldn't be done. We tried hiring men again, but they quit too, so my husband plugged away at it in his spare time, often having to break up rocks three and four feet around. I am especially mentioning the problems we had so you can realize that where there's a will there's a way and maybe you have a spot that can be reclaimed. It took about two years, working off and on, to complete the room, as it became necessary to halt work when the snow got too high and there was no place outside to throw the dirt. Anyone who doubts this has just never lived through a New York state winter and on top of Onondaga Hill to boot, where the winds blow strong and the snow drifts high.

There was a long, uninteresting period when I had to rush down cellar and try to enthuse over

drain tile, crushed stone, electrical wiring, etc., to keep up the morale of my determined worker, and I realized by now that it was really a labor of love. But, eventually the work progressed to painting the concrete benches pink and the floor a soft gray, and building some decorative knick-knack shelves; and things began to look more interesting.

We moved into the new room along in February, and, would you believe it, a room twenty-four feet by fourteen feet was filled in about two weeks. I just went through the two and one-fourth inches and took out about every third one, and you couldn't even miss them. These I spread out with great glee, giving each plant lots of room and "nary" a leaf was touching. But that, of course, was last February. Don't ask me about the situation now.

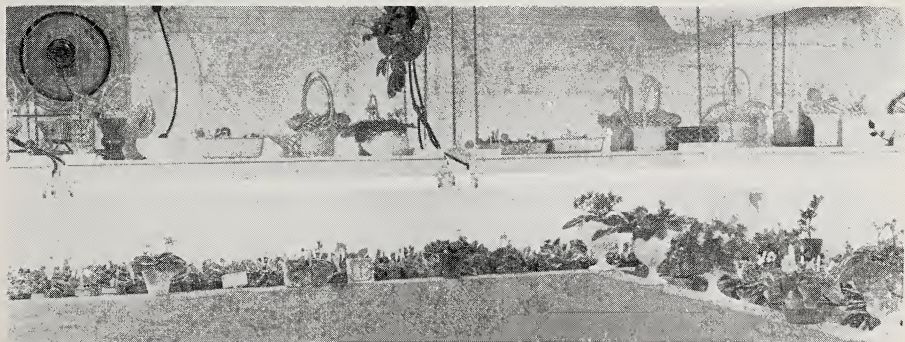
We thought we could overcome some of our growing problems in the new room, but in solving same we found we created new ones that had to be ironed out. Nearly everyone who has grown any number of plants in the basement has at one time or another encountered mildew in some form. We installed a good sized ventilating fan in the cellar wall which would bring in fresh air the year round. This is connected with the lights on the time switch, so when the lights come on the fan starts working. It has done the trick as far as mildew is concerned, but the fan does bring in outside air and when the temperature gets down below freezing outside, that air is cold. I found that the temperature on the bench under the fan was running about sixty degrees during cold winter weather. You may have heard it said that violets will grow in temperature ranges down to the fifties; yes, they will live, but they certainly will not grow well. The difference caused by the cold does not show up immediately, but after about two months I realized the plants on that side were not looking good. The centers were curling down, were very brittle and looked something like mite, but I feel that I can recognize mite when I see it, and I was sure it wasn't that. The only other thing I could think of was that the plants must be too cold. After so much work had been done in the room, I almost

hated to mention that conditions still weren't right. Finally my husband asked what was making the plants so brittle, etc., and when I said I thought they weren't warm enough, he said immediately that that would be easy to fix and before the day was over he had put a new heat pipe into the room. Then I wished I had mentioned it before; I had no idea it would be such an easy thing to remedy.

Of course, anyone who grows plants in a basement will have an occasional spot of mildew, because when conditions are just right, that is when the humidity is excessively high and the temperature changes and becomes cold suddenly, mildew is apt to show up. Keep a sprayer with a little Mildex in it and just spray into the air around the plants.

The one improvement which we have made and which I find is working just wonderfully, is in our lights. Nearly everyone uses a forty-eight inch industrial fluorescent fixture with forty watt bulbs mounted over a table that may vary in width from twenty-eight to thirty-six inches. The wider the table the less light the plants on the outside edges and at the corners will get. I found that the plants directly beneath the lights always grew the best, while the ones farther away did practically nothing. When we were planning the new room, we decided to try putting the lights in with more space between the tubes. Of course they don't come that way, but you can buy the strips unmounted and mount them yourself. The only hitch is, you either have to have a handy husband who likes to make things and understands electricity a little, or you will have a big bill with an electrician. My handy man bought forty watt forty-eight inch strips and mounted them on three-fourths inch plywood using plywood sixteen inches wide, and making a twelve inch space between the two strips of light. No reflector was used, so all the plants on the concrete benches, which are thirty-six inches wide, get approximately the same amount of light. The benches have a shelf four inches wide, which is used to display dish gardens, plants in fancy containers, etc., and even these grow very well and seem to be getting enough light.

Close up look at wall benches and fluorescent light arrangement.



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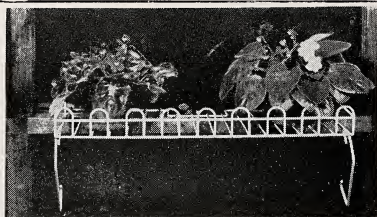
Cincinnati 11, Ohio

Treat your soil NATURE'S way

I am using two pictures of the new room, which I believe will give you some idea of the set-up and the lights. One thing has been added since the pictures were taken; the sixteen inch wide space on top of each light fixture was such a grand place to set things, that it soon was filled with baskets, gift items, and, of course, plastic trays of leaves. It was nice and high, and on top of the lights there was just enough warmth to make the leaves happy; but they didn't get enough light, so another single strip has been hung over the main fixture, seeming to provide just the needed amount of light. At least the plantlets are developing nicely and growing sturdy and compact.

Our room was originally added to give us room to grow more of our seedlings and that is just what we are doing. We have several interesting crosses, with all types of foliage, some with very dark, curly leaves that people seem to like. Each day brings a few new ones into bloom and it is really quite thrilling, hoping for something outstanding and different. Perhaps we are overly critical, but we have decided not to register just anything because it is a new name, but to test them thoroughly and make certain that they will propagate with vim and vigor as well as being pleasing to the eye.

My husband has just edited my article, and being the technical type, says that I have given the wrong idea on the fan, that it doesn't bring outside air in, he says it is an exhaust fan and draws the stale air out. Being a mere woman, I don't know about these things, but, "by gum," last winter some cold outside air sure sneaked in some way. (I'm not going to show him this last paragraph. Will he be surprised when the magazine arrives?) end



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ATTENTION: AFFILIATED CHAPTERS

Mrs. Wangberg has resigned as Affiliated Chapter Chairman.
Her resignation was effective June 1, 1959.

Your NEW Chairman is:

Mrs. Ronald Reaume, 16508 Fairmount Drive, Detroit 5, Michigan. Please write to Mrs. Reaume for Affiliated Chapter information (see Tell You What page) and Awards for Affiliated Chapter Shows.

Send All Chapter DUES And All AFFILIATED CHAPTER Member's African Violet Society of America, Inc., DUES to:

Myrtle Radtke, Treasurer
P. O. Box 1326
Knoxville, Tennessee

Please DO NOT SEND YOUR MONEY to Mrs. Reaume.

See, Tell You What, next page for additional information.

A MESSAGE FROM THE NEW COMMITTEE

Dear Members of the Affiliated Chapters:

Will you help us?

It is our desire, as your new Affiliated Chapter Committee to do the very best job possible — with all of you helping us.

Our aim is to increase the growth of Affiliated Chapters and the service rendered. Let that be your goal and ours. We need every one of you!

We, in turn, will endeavor to always be prompt in answering your letters and in taking care of your Affiliated Chapter business.

If there is anything we can do for your Chapter, please write and tell us what it is: let us have a try at helping you. Your problems are our problems.

The members of the Affiliated Chapter Committee will look forward to becoming acquainted with your Chapter, and working for you and with you.

Very sincerely,

Dorothy Reaume, Chairman, Affiliated Chapters Committee:
Olive Foster
Harold Van Horn
Dorothy Gray

TELL YOU WHAT

NEW MEMBERSHIPS and RENEWALS — should be sent to the treasurer, Myrtle Radtke, P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tennessee. Make all checks payable to the African Violet Society of America, Inc.

NEW MEMBERSHIPS and RENEWALS of AFFILIATED CHAPTER MEMBERS — should be sent to Myrtle Radtke, P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tennessee. Please pay your dues through your Chapter treasurer if you are a member of a Chapter.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS — send your new address at least 30 days before the issue with which it is to take effect. Send old address with the new, enclosing if possible your address label.

BACK ISSUES OF MAGAZINE — write the African Violet Society of America, Inc., P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tennessee for a list of those in stock. Not all magazines are available as back issues. Do not send money until you get the list. Make check payable to the African Violet Society of America, Inc. Cost \$1.00 per copy.

ADVERTISING RATES — are available from Floyd L. Johnson, 183 W. Gibson Street, Canandaigua, New York.

AFFILIATED CHAPTER INFORMATION — write to Dorothy Reaume, 16508 Fairmount Drive, Detroit 5, Michigan.

MAGAZINE BINDERS — write the African Violet Society of America, Inc., P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tennessee. Two for \$6.50 postpaid.

JUDGING SCHOOLS — for information about holding a judging school to become a qualified judge write Ruth G. Carey, 3900 Garden Drive, Knoxville 18, Tennessee.

AWARDS FOR SHOWS — write Dorothy Reaume, 16508 Fairmount Drive, Detroit 5, Michigan.

CLUB NEWS — send all club news to the Club News editor, Maxine Wangberg, 1400 N. 118th St., Wauwatosa 13, Wisconsin.

SHOW NEWS — send all show news reports to the Show -- News and Views editor, Eunice Fisher, Route 3, Box 284, Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

PLANT REGISTRATION — write Constance Hansen, Box 302, Lafayette, California.

DEADLINE DATES FOR MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS — for September issue, June 1st; December issue, September 1st; March issue, December 1st; June issue, March 1st.

PHOTOGRAPHS — cannot be returned unless by previous agreement with the editor.

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PLAN A YEAR AHEAD OF TIME FOR YOUR SPRING SHOW

Mrs. Robert Westmoreland, Nashville, Tennessee

I first go over my baby violets in two and one-half inch pots and pick out the ones that are the strongest and have the broadest leaves, taking into consideration the varieties, old and new, that will bloom the heaviest. These I pot in three inch pots and keep them in active growth until fall.

In the meantime I put my old plants in the coolest place I can find and let them rest, thinking that perhaps a few of them can be shown again.

When the fall of the year arrives, work really begins. The young plants I have been growing all summer are now big plants, ready for four inch pots, so I put these in good soil and start them on their way to being show plants. The old plants are looked over, and those that have stemmed up are either set in a deeper pot or some of the root system and soil are removed and the plants are potted in new soil.

Now the old and new plants are ready to begin the winter months, with shaping and grooming and plant food. I use Atlas Fish Emulsion every ten days, but occasionally alternate with Plant Marvel.

You may laugh when I tell you that I use egg-shell water. I fill quart jars half full of eggshells, then fill them with water, let them set over night, then water my plants with it the next day.

To begin with, my lights are from twelve to fifteen inches above the plants, but about six weeks before show time I lower the lights to six or eight inches above the plants. Be sure to put







Mrs. Westmoreland and one of her prize-winning show plants.

strips of tissue paper on the outer leaves so they won't become yellow or light looking.

The last three weeks before the show I really begin grooming my plants. I take each plant out individually, take off any bad leaves and suckers, and brush each leaf with a complexion brush. This is done to each plant for three weeks and by that time the violets really shine.

To make my show plants more interesting, I try to add a dozen or more of the newest varieties and carry them through the same process, and generally have lovely plants to show.

By show time I am awfully tired and think that this is my last show, but when I hear the "Oh's" and "Ah's" and "How gorgeous" I feel I am rewarded. Mention show time, and I am ready to start again, for the love of a little violet. end

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MRS. YOUNG'S QUESTIONS - MRS. DYKEMAN'S REPLY

Bess Dykeman, South Bend, Indiana

MRS. BEA YOUNG OF BOSSIER CITY, LOUISIANA, ASKS THESE QUESTIONS:

What is whitening for and what takes place when you mix it with soil?

Whiting serves the same purpose as lime. We know that as peat moss breaks down it becomes strongly acid in its reaction. By adding ground limestone or whitening, we can help the soil to stabilize itself at a near neutral state. Soil does its best work for most plants when it is only slightly acid, or neutral.

Do you sterilize your soil?

The soil I use in my own mixture is a prepared soil which I purchase in bulk quantities. It comes already sterilized. I notice that Kranz's advise sterilizing after their four basic ingredients have been thoroughly mixed. Of course, this is done when the "dirt" one uses has not been sterilized previously. In my own case, I do not need to sterilize again after mixing.

I am not familiar with the local soil conditions in any part of the country except the mid-west, so do not feel that I can give advice on garden soils in Louisiana and other parts of the south. Mrs. Young's soil sample, which she sent me by mail, is a fine red silt which, when moistened, becomes a slippery mass of red "goo." I shouldn't think this type of soil would serve the purpose of the kind Kranz's used in their recipe. How can Mrs. Young obtain the correct soil that she needs if she wishes to follow the formula the Kranz's give? I can mail her some of the soil used in our vicinity, but transportation charges are high. Isn't there a simple and more inexpensive way for Mrs. Young to find what she needs?

What about temperature, Mrs. Young writes to ask.

In our region, when it is hot, it is hot and there is not much we can do about it. A few of

us have "gone fluorescent" and have taken our African violets to the basement, where temperatures are more stable. But often in summer, humidity becomes a problem. If the area is small, and the atmosphere not buoyant, mildew can become a minor nuisance. I have run across it occasionally during very humid spells. I have found that a cotton swab dipped lightly in Fermate, touched to the flower stems that are affected, would soon clear up the problem. Knowing that mildew is prevalent in the air, I dip a wad of soft cotton in Fermate and hold this in front of the moving electric fan blades. This allows a thin film of Fermate to float through the air. This has completely cleared up any slight infestation which has developed.

We now have a small electric fan attached to the automatic timer and this operates whenever the timer turns on the fluorescent lights. At the present time we have the light on for only twelve hours each day, as we are home now for only a few hours on Wednesday of each week. I realize that a longer period of lighting produces more flowers, but no one sees the plants during the summer, and we are trying to cut down the light bill. Along about the middle of September, we shall again put the lights on a sixteen hour schedule.

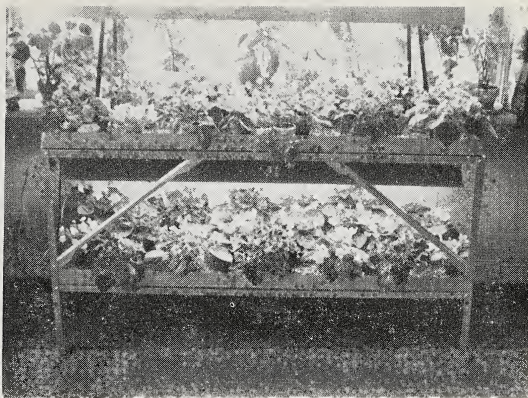
Many people have no basements and must keep their Saintpaulias in their living quarters upstairs. Fresh moving air is essential here, too. When I was obliged to summer my plants upstairs, I added no fertilizer during the warm season. I watered carefully, but applied somewhat less often than in winter when low humidity is a problem. I never let the plants become bone dry, but never under any circumstances flooded the violets or watered copiously. This is the season when crown rot causes a lot of trouble for many growers.

Mrs. Young's letter asks, What about crown rot?



Mrs. Dykeman admiring a plant of *Celestra* which has responded to the Kranz soil recipe.

"This pictures a 20" x 52" cart which Mr. Dykeman made for me from angle aluminum. It stands in the southwest end of the living room, and as you can see, the window sill back of it holds house plants which grow tall enough to screen the Saint-paulias from the sun when it becomes too ardent. The cart holds 40 mature plants."



I have heard a lot about it and I have read reams of advice given by many people, but in trying to answer Mrs. Young's question, I am going to put it on a practical basis. I can only state the factors which have eliminated this particular problem for me.

First, I try earnestly to avoid the conditions which cause a desert to a jungle state of being; second, and of far more importance in my own case, I began following the advise of Mr. Richter of Hammond, Indiana. This florist advised me to try to avoid a too-acid soil condition, which was, he felt, the great stumbling block. After hearing his advice, I began to use lime water occasionally on my violets, and soon I had no more crown rot. I used ground limestone, adding it to the water I used when I watered my plants. I scratched very small amounts of limestone into the soil surface once in a while.

Since using Mr. and Mrs. Kranz's soil formula, I do not follow this practice, of course, as the whiting incorporated into the mixture serves the same purpose, and is more efficient and far simpler and longer lasting.

I have often been asked how to solve the problem of too little humidity. My upstairs plants, for the most part, set in galvanized trays partially filled with chicken grits or crushed oyster shells, and I maintain a low level of water in the bottom of these trays. The moisture, as it evaporates, surrounds the African violet leaves and supplies enough humidity to prevent serious results. It is not a perfect solution, but it helps. The violets bloom, although nowhere nearly as profusely as under fluorescent lights in the basement. However, other factors are involved upstairs to hinder the full flower development I could desire.

Like many other women, Mrs. Young asks what to do for mites.

Here again I am going to tell how I handle the mite situation. This is not to say that I advise others to do as I do, but my way gives me satisfaction and it works at Garden Lane.

At one time I had cyclamen mites. Having a large collection, it was no easy task to get rid of them, but I did, after a long and involved process. I was given advice by a number of people, one said to do this, another said to do that. The advise conflicted so that I decided to use my head. Knowing I was entirely free from mite trouble, I made a resolution to isolate all violets and other house plants that came into the house. I now allow a four to six weeks period to elapse before I place new African violets in the basement with my large collection. It does not matter where these new violets come from, they are isolated. I never again want to go through a siege of mite infestation if I can help it.

Some of my friends remain free from trouble by selenating all their plants every three or four months. I do not selenate any of my violets. Before bringing into the house any house plants which have summered outdoors, I treat them with sodium selenate! I keep them isolated in the breezeway for a month or so after treating. I spray thoroughly at this time with Malathion.

I watch my African violets like a hawk for signs of any abnormality. I never doctor a sick plant. Out it goes. Other factors can cause a plant to develop the appearance of mites, so I must exercise judgment. But, having had mites once, I have learned to distinguish the difference. If ever I see an African violet that looks suspicious, at the very first indication that mites may be at work, then and only then, shall I use selenate, but I shall use it if I am in doubt, on all my plants. I hope I shall never need to use it, for, in my case, using so many pots of such different sizes, having plants of such varying sizes, I cannot be sure just how much selenate to use. I found the cure was almost as bad as the trouble itself. But when I must use the stuff, I follow Neil Miller's advice to the letter. Many people violently disagree with me on this subject, and I allow them that privilege.

How do you give your violets light?

I wonder how many people have the same problem with light that I do. The living room windows are too dark all summer, after our many oak trees leaf out fully. In early spring and late fall the southeast windows receive too much sun for a part of each morning, and during those hours light must be filtered through thin glass curtains; but if I leave the curtains there in the afternoons, the Saintpaulias do not get enough light, so either the curtains or the violets must be moved. I remove the curtains as it is easier, although it is never a simple problem. If I must be away from home, the difficulty becomes increasingly more complicated. No wonder I moved most of the plants to the basement, where every problem became more simplified.

Some day I hope to try a combination of both daylight and fluorescent light for part of the collection. I like the leaf texture of certain varieties better when they are grown in daylight. If one lives in a house where none of the windows give the correct kind and amount of light, fluorescent fixtures are one solution to the problem. Mr. and Mrs. Kranz give full particulars on the subject of gardening indoors, using electricity as the means of supplying abundant light. Sundt, Schulz and Kranz are three names with which to reckon when it comes to the subject of supplying light to our favorite house plant. By a careful reading of what these authors have to say, one can gain an idea of what to do and how to go about it. Each case is different, however, and each of us must learn to adjust the knowledge we gain to our own particular growing conditions.

The Dykemans are still experimenting. For a number of months we may try out a certain

combination of tubes and incandescent lights, only to find that too much light resulted, or perhaps that still a different combination was necessary to obtain the desired results. Eventually we hope to find just the right set up for our tables of Lavender and Lace and the experimental tables of mature plants. If we succeed, then we shall always use the same set of light tubes and bulbs, thereby enabling us to have the same results all the time. Colors of varieties and types of leaves require different light arrangements, we have found, and we seek the happy medium.

There was one more question Mrs. Young asked, How can you tell if you have the right humidity?

One can buy an instrument which will indicate the amount of humidity present, but, after all is said and done, even if we know how much humidity we have, there is not a great deal we can do to remedy the situation. We need merely to do the best we can, and then stop worrying about it. After all, humidity is only one factor necessary to success, and I do believe that it alone, or rather the lack of a sufficient amount of it, is very often the cause of lack of bloom.

And now to Mrs. Young herself, I have this to say: Let us help you — quit saying you cannot grow African violets. After all, why do we have a National African Violet Society, if not to help people like you and me and thousands like us to grow better violets.

Why don't you spend \$4.95 and buy Kranz's book, "Gardening Indoors Under Lights?" You say you once had a Flora Cart and sold it. After you read what these authors say on the subject of gardening by electricity, you are going to be sorry you sold your cart. I only wish I had one for that dark, bare corner in my living room. Read too, what Kranz's have to say about how to water plants properly. There are many pictures in this book and these, together with the simple, understandable language used, will help anyone who is unable to give her plants enough light. If it is bloom you want, this book will surely point the way, especially if you will propagate only excellent blooming varieties.

By the time we are sixty-five years of age, we have surely reached the age of patience, so let patience and persistence be your constant companions while you attempt once again to reach the goal you are seeking: violets that thrive and bloom.

I am only guessing, of course, but I have the feeling that you may be killing your plants with kindness. Don't be forever doing something for them. Having done just what is necessary, sit back and wait. In dealing with children, as I have often said, do the necessary and then allow them to walk alone, to think for themselves, and do for themselves, so that when they go out to meet the challenge of the big, wide world, they can take care of themselves.

Treat your African violets in the same way.
end

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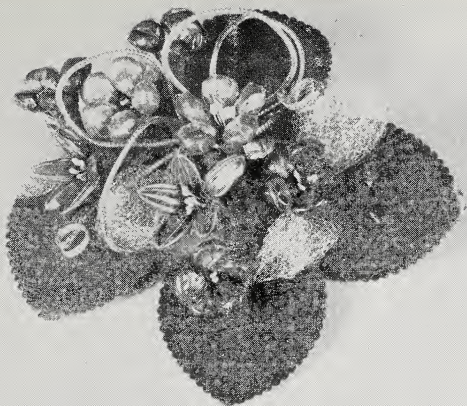
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MAKE YOUR OWN CORSAGES

Martha Shafer, Muskegon, Michigan

Flower wearing has been the custom throughout the ages of history.

Nothing adds more to a dress or a suit than a bright corsage. Have you ever been at a gathering and noticed a lady entering the room wearing a beautiful corsage? The atmosphere seems to change at once, there seems to be an air of added importance.

The allied art of making corsages is coming to the fore. More and more folk are learning to make their own corsages. There are all kinds of advantages in making one's own corsages: they are inexpensive, and fun to make. It may not be possible to have a new hat each day for a lift, but one can have a fresh corsage each day; and do you know a corsage is not an extra decoration but rather a floral accessory that is a definite part of the costume.

A corsage need not be a few roses, a bit of fern, and a bright bow. Corsages of dried materials can be attractive and pleasing. The corsages are not only practical and fun to make, but they are interesting to create. When cold winds, rain and snow have played havoc with fresh flowers, then it is that dried materials may be used. Cones, seed pods, acorns, and even Indian corn are some of the materials.

Why don't you do something really different and wear an African violet corsage to your next meeting? What I really mean is to make a make-believe African violet corsage. You will have such fun, and surprise your friends. Not many of them will ever have seen such a corsage.

The flowers are made as follows:

Take the blue kernel from Indian corn.

Cut purple cellophane into two inch squares.

Cut the squares in half, crosswise.

Wrap each kernel in cellophane, as shown in the diagram.

Place five of the covered kernels around artificial stamens.

Wire the stems together, and tape.

The little flowers really resemble our African violets. end

COMMON COURTESY

Marie Dannemiller, Barberton, Ohio

When seeking information which requires a reply by mail, ALWAYS include a stamped self-addressed envelope with your letter. Answering a few such inquiries means very little in monetary value, but when the requests come in by the dozens, the outlay in postage and envelopes amounts to a sizeable sum, and will, of course, mean more with the increased postal rates.

A busy time schedule can be helped greatly by the writer addressing his or her own envelope. Frankly, sometimes those signed letters are very hard to decipher, so, play safe, and make sure the postman can read the address too.

We often hear grumbling that "so and so did not answer my letter." Are you sure the fault isn't yours? Did you remember to enclose that stamped self-addressed envelope for the reply? This is common courtesy. end

OUR GREENHOUSE

Dr. Orlando Filizola, Brazil

Because of the arrangement of the shelves it was not possible to take a picture of the greenhouse as a whole; two sides only are shown. Of course, African violets are the great interest but you will notice other plants growing in among the African violets.



A specimen plant is inspected and admired by Mrs. Filizola.



Mrs. Filizola looking at a large multiple crown plant.

Above and right, these photographs show two walls of our African violet greenhouse where we keep the big plants. From these pictures I hope that you will have an idea of the variety and number of plants we own. Our original plants here all come from the U. S.

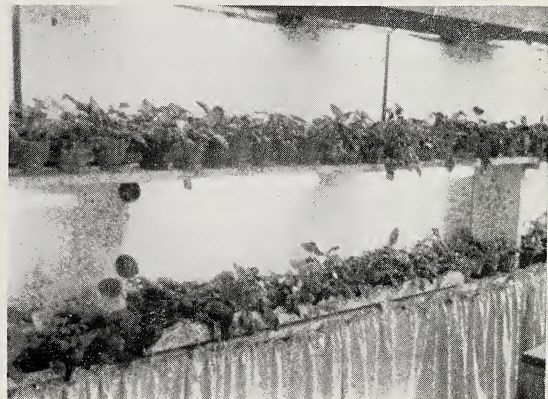




Above, our son Orlando, Jr., holding an *E. dianthiflora*.



A view of the entrance and left side wall of the greenhouse shows Mrs. Filizola admiring the blossoms of an *Episcia*.



Right, small plants thrive, in the propagation greenhouse, under the fluorescent lights.



Left, shelves of leaf cuttings being grown under fluorescent lights in the propagation greenhouse.

A RESUME OF THE WORK OF JULIUS HENSEL, GERMAN CHEMIST, IN THE FIELD OF PLANT NUTRITION

Reprinted with permission from Potash Rock Company of America, Inc.

The late Julius Hensel, German chemist, made a life study of plant nutrition, chiefly during the latter half of the last century. What is a resume of his findings, taken from his book, "Bread From Stones," published more than fifty years ago, now out of print, follows:

It is to be inferred from his writings that Hensel was attracted to this particular field of research by a marked decline in the productivity of the soils in Germany, with a corresponding increase of parasitic infestation of its produce.

The striking fact, that virgin soils, particularly at the bases of mountains, were always fruitful and their vegetation free of parasites which infested vegetation produced on lands which had long been in cultivation, provided the lead for Hensel's attack on the problem, namely, an investigation into the chemistry of plants and their fruits grown on virgin soil, as compared with those produced on soils which had been cropped many years.

This investigation indicated to Hensel that the root of the trouble must be found in the matter of nutriment contained in the soil for growth. He viewed growth as the building process which it really is; and since chemistry showed that at least eighteen different mineral and gaseous elements enter into the composition of organic matter in measurable quantities he set about to make provision for supplying these elements to the soil on which he conducted his experimental work, and which elements he found, in greater part, to be contained in the granite of the Bohemian Mountains.

He arranged for the grinding and stamping of the granite from these mountains into as fine a dust as possible, to which he added small parts of lime and gypsum, the proportions of the mixture being as follows: ten parts of granite, three of lime, and two of gypsum. With the application of this mixture to his gardens he obtained results highly gratifying. The soils so treated not only produced bountifully, but also vegetation of vastly superior quality, and all free of parasitic growth. Of great significance in the results thus obtained were the extraordinarily large size of root systems on all plants so grown.

Because of the generally accepted dictum of the agricultural authorities of his day — still sacrosanct — that nitrogen, phosphorus, and potash, alone, constitute a complete fertilizer, Hensel met with great opposition in the prosecution of his work, and evidently this dogma is responsible for his writings being so little known today.

He saw, as is well known today, that stable manure and the commercial fertilizers, which contain the three elements above mentioned, to

the exclusion of all others entering into the composition of vegetation normally, will promote a luxuriant and seemingly vigorous growth, but also found, and what is not so well known, that such growth is a superficial and spurious structure, and hence unstable as evidenced by a lack of cohesiveness and resulting early decay, not to speak of having a lowered food value.

He finally made the discovery that the parasitic pests so common to plant life, instead of being entities of extraneous origin, are evolutions purely incidental to impoverished and sickly plant structures, all of which phenomena hark back to mineral starvation. Furthermore, he held, that in pursuance of nature's utilitarian-compensatory scheme of life, these parasitic organisms form a part of her machinery for disposing of organisms unfit to survive; indeed, they are, in effect, scavengers. In this connection he pointed out, that stable manure is not without value, but that to secure this value, and at the same time neutralize its poisonous ammoniacal content, it should be treated with the mineral mixture, which he called Stone Meal. When Stone Meal is not available, wood ashes, lime, and gypsum can be substituted to advantage.

Among other evidences which he cited, as to produce forced with nitrogen, as he put it, being unstable and spurious, and hence unfit for food, were: the lodging of wheat and other cereals; the lack of flavor, together with unpleasant odors emitted by vegetables when cooked, as opposed to a real fragrance experienced in the processing of vegetables and fruits normally fabricated; and root systems on plants properly fed being much larger than those on plants forced with nitrogen. In this connection he called attention to a striking phenomenon under our very eyes, certifying to his findings and conclusions, in the refusal of the most hungry animals to eat the luxuriant growth of grasses adjacent to feed lots and piles of stable manure when they can find anything else whatever to eat. The use of Stone Meal in our flower gardens has been equally gratifying. Hitherto, for instance, we had to tie dahlias to stakes to prevent drooping. This is not necessary now. Truly, Nature never stultifies herself. When provided with essential building materials, her structures stand up and carry their loads.

He reminds us of the fact that sugar in the form of starch, contained in all seeds and bulbs, is essential to continued healthy growth and points out that the requisite minerals for normal growth provide a veritable storehouse of sugar. Experiments he made with sugar beets showed that their sugar content when grown on ground treated with Stone Meal increased greatly, reaching seventy-five percent in some instances. Potatoes and cereals show a greater proportion

of starch; oil crops show more seed vessels and a corresponding increase in oil. Beans, peas, and other leguminous growths yield more lecithin (oil containing phosphate of ammonia as the chemical basis of nerve substance).

Faced with the old claim that these minerals are insoluble in water, Hensel explained that their solubility is effected by the combined forces of the sun, root sap, and soil moisture, as evidenced by the fact that these elements are found in all vegetation. To quote: "Men who say that silicates of bases are insoluble are contradicted by the trees of the forest as well as by every single straw. Oak leaves, on combustion, leave four and two-thirds percent of ashes, and of these fully one-third consists of silicic acid. How can this come into the leaves unless the ascending sap conveyed it in solution?" Again: "In the ashes of the straw of winter wheat, two-thirds consists of silicic acid. In the beard of barley the proportion is still greater; this yields nearly twelve percent of ashes, and eight and one-half percent of this consists of silicic acid."

In summing up his findings, liberally implemented with chemical terms and tables, he voices the opinion, and certainly with forceful logic, that our deficiency diseases, so-called, including orthopedic troubles, are very largely the result of mineral starvation.

In the Spring of 1938 I was able to secure granite from the Cascade Mountains, processed by a firm in Seattle to a fineness such that ninety-eight percent of the material filters through a two hundred mesh to the inch sieve, with addition of lime and gypsum as recommended by Hensel. Assays of the finished product are almost identical with those of Hensel's.

During the last three seasons I have used this material exclusively in my gardens and orchards, applying straw and other vegetable matter as needed for humus, with the results so far largely verifying Hensel's claims. Hitherto I fertilized almost altogether with stable manure. My ranch is situated on upland, with top soil from three to four inches deep, the subsoil consisting of coarse sand and gravel.

Production in both my gardens and orchards has steadily increased in quantity and quality. Vegetables, hitherto so badly infested with parasitic growths that to preserve them from destruction by these pests it was necessary to dust and spray them with insecticides frequently, are now singularly free of these growths; no spraying or dusting has been done on any vegetables during the last two seasons.

The increased sugar content in carrots and sweet corn, and in apples, in particular, has been unmistakably marked. The firm, fine texture of the apples, together with abundance of juice, has been particularly noticeable. Noticeable, too, is a most agreeable aroma. Root systems on sweet corn and cabbage, in particular, are so densely matted with fine feeder lateral rootlets as to constitute a mass two or three times that of roots formerly produced. In the handling of

these root systems, wonder as to the marked superiority of the apples, for instance, is lessened materially. With lungs (roots) on these trees comparable to those on vegetables, little less could reasonably be expected. end

The book, "Bread From Stones," may be purchased from the Potash Rock Company of America, Inc., Department J, Lithonia, Georgia. Cost: 25 cents in either coin or stamps. — Editor

FERNE V. KELLAR

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USE FALLEN LEAVES IN COMPOST PILE

Gisela Grimm

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New York Herald Tribune

Most gardeners are aware that a continuing supply of organic matter is important in maintaining productivity of the soil, and that the compost pile is the cheapest and best source. Yet in spite of this, every fall thousands of home owners rake up the fallen leaves and burn them.

Waste vegetation from the fall cleanup is put out for the trash man, and kitchen waste is put down the garbage disposal, all because of the belief that a compost pile is messy and smelly, attracts flies, rats and mice, and as such there is no room for it on the small property.

However, the compost pile need be none of these things. After all it is not meant to be a catch-all trash heap, but a factory which produces a superior soil improver. And although animal manures added to the compost pile are helpful, fortunately, as they are increasingly difficult to obtain, they are not essential.

NEED NOT BE UNSIGHTLY

A correctly built up compost pile is clean and not at all unsightly and there is room for one on even the smallest properties. Any out-of-the-way corner, as behind the garage, a group of shrubs, or hedge will serve.

For years the writer had one behind some shrubs within a few feet of the back wall of the house. From the windows one looked over it to the shrubs and as it was kept neatly covered with pine needles most persons were completely unaware of it.

Often on properties where there may not be a suitable location for a large compost pile several smaller ones may be more easily located. A pile four by eight feet, four by six feet, or even four by four feet will be worth a great deal to the garden maker.

By all means plan to start at least one new one each fall when waste plant materials for building it are available in greatest quantity. If several piles in varying stages of decomposition are on hand there will always be usable humus available when needed.

Some gardeners find it helpful in keeping the compost pile neat to drive strong stakes in the ground to mark the four corners and surround these with a small mesh wire. Others build a neat, three-sided structure of brick, cinder block, stone, or boards, to hold the materials in bounds, but even if this is done, soil, rather than some solid material, should form the floor of the

structure. Dig the soil out to a foot or more. It will be found useful in building the pile.

BUILDING METHODS VARY

A compost pile may be built up in various ways, depending on the material to be used. If leaves only are used the resulting material will be leafmold, a light, spongy substance, especially fine for seed-sowing, ferns and wildflowers. Other non-woody vegetation, such as grass clippings, dead annuals, tops of perennials, coffee grounds, egg shells, orange rinds, potato peelings, and other kitchen waste make a slightly heavier compost.

If manure is available, by all means use it. In some sections where stable manure is impossible to find, rabbit and sometimes chicken manure are available and will serve. Make alternate layers six inches to a foot deep of vegetation, manure and soil, and cover the whole with soil. In about six months a rich compost will be ready for use.

If no manure is used, build up layers of vegetation six inches or so deep, alternating with an inch or so of soil. As it is built up layer by layer, a light sprinkling of a balanced chemical fertilizer will add plant food and hasten decomposition. Unless the compost is to be used for rhododendrons, azaleas and other acid-loving plants, this might be alternated with a sprinkling of limestone, enough to whiten the soil.

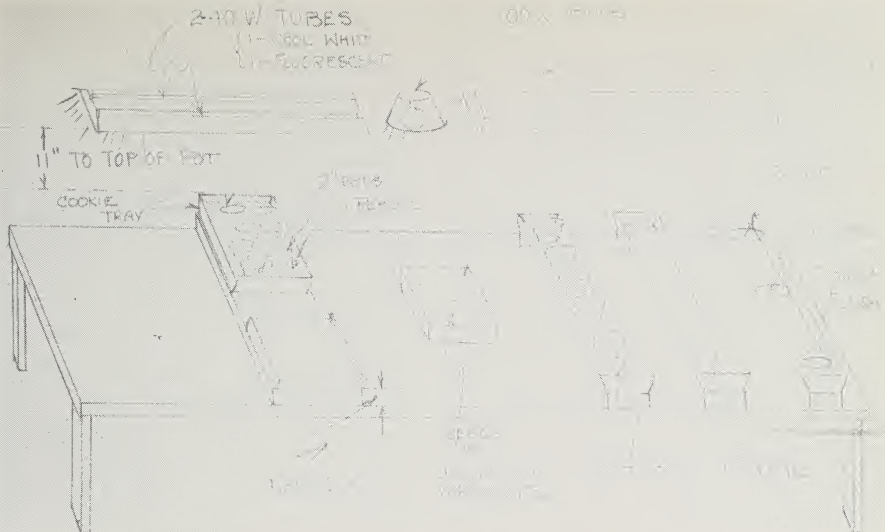
ACTIVATORS HELPFUL

The commercial compost activators are a boon to gardeners, as they greatly accelerate the process of decomposition. One of these contains the various micro-organisms, enzymes, biotics, hormones, and vitamins, which activate the process of decomposing the organic wastes into a valuable synthetic manure.

Others are chemical in make-up. These are available from most garden supply stores and are not expensive. To obtain most satisfactory results, the directions should be carefully followed. By the use of one of these activators decomposition will be hastened considerably and if other conditions are right, usable compost may be formed in as short a time as three months.

No matter what is used it is important to build up the pile with as straight sides as possible, and with a concave top to catch water. If the material is loose and dry, each layer should be firmly packed and moistened with a hose as it is built up. The completed pile is always covered with soil.

Some persons find it helpful to make holes in the pile with a crowbar, to admit air and permit the water to more readily penetrate the lower layers of the pile, for unless it is kept moist it will not decompose. However, do not allow water to stand on top or around the pile, for air as well as moisture is necessary. Even so the pile should be turned at least once to aerate it. end



MORE TIPS ON GROWING UNDER LIGHTS

Esther E. Schadewald, Havertown, Pennsylvania

In order to grow healthier African violets and Episcias in my cellar under 40 watt tube lights, I have had to change my soil formula. When my violets were on my window sills, I was using a very fine textured commercial African violet soil mix. However, after my plants were moved to a 3' x 10' table under four, 40 watt tube lights in the cellar, I noticed that this same soil mix remained like wet mud in the pots, which encouraged crown rot. Humidity is very much higher in the cellar, so I am now using a much looser, granular soil mix successfully, as follows:

- 4 parts woods soil
- 1 " vermiculite (large texture)
- 1½ " sand
- 2 " activated Michigan peat
- 1 " dried cow manure or very old manure
- 1 cup bone meal
- 1 " colloidal phosphate
- 1 " Hybro-Tite potash
- 1 " limestone
- 1 " Electra
- 2 " charcoal
- 2 lbs. Hoover's Blend

This is an organic mixture, rich in plant food essentials. Additional plant feedings are not essential for at least four months; then I feed with Atlas Fish Emulsion monthly.

Every plant which enters my collection receives a preventive dose of standard strength sodium selenate. This dose is powerful. I once

gave a three inch pot two doses by mistake. It killed the plant.

My violets and Episcias are placed in forty inch chick feeders which are resting on four inch flower pots, in order to permit a circulation of air around the plants. The trays are placed cross-wise on the table in rows which are six inches apart. I nest the plants in Perlite instead of sand. Perlite seems to resist the small black flies better and seems more absorbent than sand. The chick feeder at the end of the table contains Episcias. The Episcias' vines reach toward the lights over the side of the pots and form a beautiful flowering cascade at the far end of my table. All plants measure eleven inches from pot rim to light tubes.

The two inch size pots are on cookie trays. My seedlings are growing profusely in a covered refrigerator dish in the center of the table, twelve inches under a 100 watt bulb. The heat of the bulb encourages a rapid dense growth.

I water my plants with rain water. Plastic curtains are raised sufficiently on three sides of the table to permit air circulation. Curtains are raised and lowered at different seasons of the year depending on the temperature of the cellar, which varies from 65° to 70°.

Antrol is used as a spray weekly.

In winter many of my plants and Episcias are placed on glass shelves in a large bay window, but for a more profuse bloom and more upright foliage, I must say that I prefer growing plants under lights. end

I hardly know how to begin this paper for either by experience, reading or otherwise, many of you may know as much or more than I about our subject, WATERING AND HUMIDITY. (I have combined the two topics for they are usually more or less associated and dependent on each other.) It is a subject filled with "ifs" and "ands." It is difficult to find any definite instruction as to what kind, when, how much, or which method will best provide and maintain the most acceptable level of soil moisture and humidity for our African violets. One "authority" says one thing and the next one may simply reverse the first one, and so on. However, I hope that what I have to tell you will enable you to answer many of your questions relative to watering and humidity insofar as your own plants are concerned. You see the probable reason for the indefinite answers we get is that most every collection and a number of the different varieties of African violets have their own particular needs as to watering and humidity as well as light, soil and food. I am no authority or expert and virtually every bit of the information I give you here is from book and magazine sources.

When I have finished I'll give you an opportunity for questions and hope I will be able to cover problems as to your personal collections or clarify some of the points and statements I

tion in some instances, applies to any climate, hot or cold, wet or dry.

Before going any further let me give you a warning. I hope not only will you observe this warning as to any of the methods I give you, but in any and everything anyone tells you or that you read concerning your violets. **Do not jump right in and try it on all your plants at once!** Often the care that suits my violets will be the thing you should not do. Try any changes on just a few plants. If the reaction is favorable I believe it would be safe to go ahead and experiment on more of your collection. Do keep up your regular procedure with the remainder of the plants for several days, or even weeks if the change is radical, to help you in judging the new methods. It took me a year or so, even after I got to where I could keep my violets alive, to work out a suitable watering, humidity, fertilizing and spraying program, and still I change quite frequently when experiments indicate that something is better, or that some product or method in use should be discontinued. These experiments have led me to do exactly that which some folk have said should not or could not be done with African violets. Most of us have expendable plants and one excellent use for them is the trial and testing of new procedures and products. Just to illustrate what could happen

WATERING AND HUMIDITY

William P. Malone, Dallas, Texas

make here. I am passing to you a list of some selected readings in our African Violet Magazine. In many stories there is only a mention or very short reference to our subject, but I think they are all important and if they are taken as a whole they will help us understand and adapt this information for our own use. Much of the information is somewhat hidden in these magazine articles, and with the help of this list we may consider them collectively and generally improve the health and beauty of our violets. Too, they are so far separated as to dates, March 1954 through December 1958, that we have probably forgotten a large part of their content. So it should mean much more to refresh our memories of them more or less as a unit. Let's make a brief review of some of these articles.

First, I wish to call to your attention the far separated locations of the authors: our Northern States, Eastern States, Middle West States, Canada, South America, Africa near the Sahara Desert, and Saudi Arabia being among them. Most every kind of climate you might ever encounter, and which might be another reason for the varied answers and diverse advice given in their stories. We, of course, will consider principally our own climate insofar as these articles are concerned. However, I believe what I am giving you here, with very slight modifica-

if you disregard this warning, listen to a little fable I made up. So far as I know none of this happened, it is all fiction and any resemblance to any person or African violet living or dead is coincidental.

Two ladies who are good friends are very much involved in African violet growing. One of them is giving her plants the usual morning inspection. Suddenly she "spies" some plants of two or three varieties that do not seem quite up to par, they are drooping some and she wonders if she may have overlooked them during the last watering. She feels of them, lifts them from among the other plants and gives a very careful inspection. She can't find anything amiss except they do not seem to be healthy — no sign of bugs or disease. She muses over them, going back several times to make closer inspections. Finally she goes to the telephone and dials. (Now remember this is a "fable" and so we become invisible and we also can hear both sides of the conversation.) Someone answers and she says: "Marge, this is Mary, what are you doing?" Marge says, "Oh! I am watering my violets, then I'm going to spray and then fertilize after a while. Why don't you come over, I could use some help." Mary says, "All right, I'll be over in an hour or so," and hangs up. Mary goes back to have

more "looks" at her plants and gets more discouraged by the minute.

After an hour or so Mary leaves, and we go along. She rings a doorbell, the door opens and someone calls, "Come in, Mary" and she goes in. First thing Mary says on seeing Marge with watering cans, "What are you doing now, Marge?" Marge replies, "Oh! it's time to water again. You know I water three or four times a day now." Mary wonders about this and goes over to Marge's violets and gives them a close look. Lo and behold! Right before her eyes are the very varieties that look so sad at her home. Here they are the very picture of health, full of blooms and ready to take prizes at any show. She remarks about how well they look and how pretty they are — and with a little envy too. She is so interested in the plants which are the same varieties as her own ill plants that she fails to note over in a corner other plants that do not look so healthy and buoyant. Nor does she notice that the sickly ones here are the varieties that look so well at her home. Mary goes home after they have a little visit.

Now without considering that most of Marge's violets are out between two windows and get excellent ventilation — and that hers are in a corner with little ventilation — she begins watering her plants three or four times a day. After several days of this her poor sick violets are just a mass of dirty looking jelly and her healthy plants are now drooping, buds and blooms are falling and what a sorry mess she has on hand.

Don't get in Mary's predicament. Find out first, ask questions, look, experiment and read up on the matter and then try the new method out on a few plants only — as I explained in the beginning. Mary's violets which were already sick from improper watering, too much humidity, and lack of good fresh air, are just about finished.

WATERING

Regardless of the method of watering, the quantity and frequency must be varied to meet the conditions surrounding your plants. I have tried and expect you have too, all the methods of watering and providing humidity that I have read or heard about; and my experience is that you cannot very well set an exact time interval between waterings or the exact quantity of water to use. Would it be any fun though if we were able to set a switch for watering like some do for lighting? I hardly believe so. Usually watering time is when my plants get a good inspection — which I always enjoy.

As you already know, there are four generally accepted methods or ways of watering African violets, and for some growers any one of the four methods seems to work well. I have tried them all at various times, sometimes combining more than one method and think maybe you have

too. These methods are, in my opinion, best in this order for general use:

1. Top watering
2. Wick-watering
3. Bottom watering
4. Constant level watering

1. Top watering, which I consider the very best, is, I believe, the most universal method and consists of pouring water on the soil at the top of the pot. Nature's way of watering, if you please.

2. Wick-watering is accomplished by inserting a wick into the bottom of the pot and then placing this over a container of water: with the wick in the water the moisture soaks up into the soil via the wick.

3. Bottom watering is placing the plant container in a vessel of water until the soil becomes wet. Incidentally, this method is one of the best ways to start crown rot fungus which is already there just waiting for favorable conditions. This is also the method which increases the salinity of the soil very much faster than other methods and necessitates repotting very much oftener.

4. Constant level watering is placing the plant and container, which must be porous, in sand or some other material above gravel and through an empty pot maintaining a constant level of water which soaks into the growing medium. This method uses other materials than these named. Objections to this method are most all of those named in the other three listed methods.

From experience I can tell you that any of these four methods of watering can give you too little or too much moisture in your growing medium, for there can be too much soil moisture under proper cultural conditions, as well as too much humidity at times. All of you know these methods, without my going into them further, and I feel sure you are well aware of the advantages and disadvantages of each system. Use the method best for your growing conditions — by all means.

HUMIDITY

Humidity, the other problem that is also a part of this subject, is the moisture in the atmosphere. In my opinion, the lack of humidity or excessive amounts causes many of the troubles of both the experienced and inexperienced grower. As a rule, the quantity of water or moisture in your growing medium and the water in nearby vessels provides a great percent of the humidity around your African violets. Of course, there is the natural humidity or lack of it in the air to take into consideration, as well as humidity caused by spraying. If the humidity is too low, the plant will give off more moisture than the root system can supply and the plant suffers, even resulting in death if lack of humidity is

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excessive. I think each grower should have at
least one humidiguide of some kind. The expen-
sive instrument is not essential: two or three
dollars for one of those with a thermometer and
humidiguide in the same case is good enough.
The larger the dial, or other scale, the better for
ease in reading. Place this guide among the
plants where it will be visible — not on the wall
of the room, as you are interested in the humidity
surrounding your plants. Too, the percentage of
humidity may be too low near the outer plants
and too high for the inner plants of your collec-
tion so a reading should be taken in both locations
occasionally. The cheaper guide may not be
completely accurate but you can make compari-
sons with radio and TV reports for outside con-
ditions. This will enable you to find the approxi-
mate error and make allowances which will be
accurate enough for your use. Of course, if you
want to spend the money for a laboratory instru-
ment, they are mighty nice to have and use, and
they give a very accurate reading.

In its native habitat the African violet enjoys
a natural humidity of approximately sixty to
seventy percent. Most of our homes have a
humidity range of ten to twenty-five percent on
an average day, especially if heating equipment
is in use. African violets will grow excellent
foliage with the humidity level from thirty to
forty percent. Below thirty percent they suffer.
They require approximately forty percent and
more humidity for them to bloom, so we need
to use artificial means much of the time to boost
humidity. It isn't too complicated to provide
humidity of fifty to sixty percent. This is a
healthy standard. More than this is difficult to
maintain on most days. If you can keep the
humidity near seventy percent the violets will
like it, and so will the fungi. High humidity
calls for more vigilance against fungi. With
higher humidity good ventilation must be pro-
vided. When the humidity is above sixty percent
it becomes more difficult to give adequate ventila-
tion and maintain the high room humidity unless
nature cooperates and provides a great deal of
outside humidity. So, during periods of high
humidity, either artificial or natural, some means
of ventilation will be necessary. This need of
artificial ventilation depends on the location
where your plants are grown: whether they are
near windows and doors or in some sheltered
corner, or maybe an alcove that can't be opened
for air circulation. Ventilation does not mean a
breeze on or through your plants. If the flow
of air is strong enough to move the blossoms,
stems or leaves, there's too much air moving and
your plants will surely suffer. The best method
I have found for artificial ventilation is to use
a very small fan placed in such a manner so as
to draw the air from among the plants — but
not blowing into them. Such a measure may be
needed only on those days when the natural
humidity goes way to the top, and probably will
not be needed then if good natural ventilation
is furnished. Ventilating with a fan reduces the

room's temperature by evaporation — in winter you will have to watch this. Good ventilation also cuts down on the danger of fungus development as fungi good and bad, will prosper in stale, humid air.

I believe we are all well acquainted with the various methods of increasing humidity, spraying warm water in the air over the plants, open vessels of water near the plants, and placing the plants over containers of water but not permitting the pots to touch this water. On exceedingly dry days those of you who have flower carts or some other such growing arrangement may increase the humidity by wrapping sheets of plastic around the cart to hold the moisture in. Be sure though, in using this set up, that the top is left open so that heat from the fluorescent lights may escape. Also more than a few days at a time of such treatment might not be advisable.

Here are a few questions we are all interested in having answered for us:

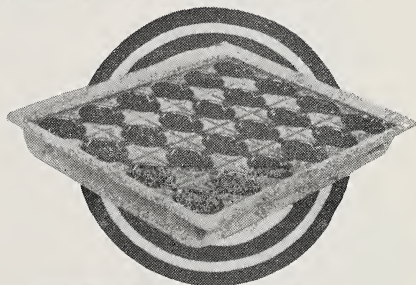
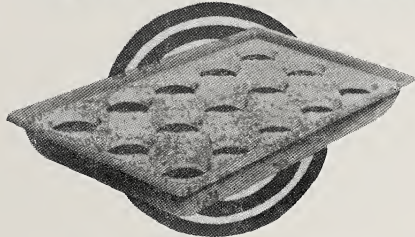
1. When to water?
2. How much water?
3. How much humidity?
4. Should we water when humidity is excessive?

These articles set out many answers to these questions, in addition to all those I have told you about and commented on. Therefore, a brief summary of the remainder of them is given. Here

are some of the methods of determining your watering needs — according to the authors of the articles. They leave the impression with me that all you need to do is practice these procedures for a while, and then you will be able to water your plants just like your African violets want it without any trouble at all . . . Maybe so. One says not to water until the pots are dry, another says wait until the soil on top is dry, still another says that it is imperative to wait until the leaves and stems begin to wilt a little, and yet another advocates just to lift these pots and water if the weight indicates loss of water. Another advocates the use of paper towels, that is touch the bottom of the pot with a paper towel and if the towel becomes wet do not water, but that if the towel is not wet by the pot it is time to water, and so on with so many methods that it would take too much time to attempt to describe them all even briefly.

Of course, since I do not know what kind of soil you use, how tight or how loose you pack it in potting, what kind of pots you use, how large a plant you place in a certain size pot, how much humidity you have in your plant room, and many other important cultural factors which probably are different with each of you, I am not able to tell you just when to water, how much water to use, and the other things in connection with watering. In my opinion, if any of these systems interest you and you think they might

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help you solve some of your problems, the thing to do is to experiment: try it out on a few plants.

So, I am going to say to you, water when your plants need it, and you come right back with the old question of "Well, when do plants need watering?" This is the big "if" and "and" question that I mentioned in the beginning. Your African violets will answer it for you if you will look to them and listen. Experience, study and experimentation will help you to know what your plants are telling you; then and only then will you have the answer to this most important question. I'll give you some hints that I have found very helpful in interpreting what your plants are telling you all the while.

Of course we all want to use the best water we can obtain, and they are best in this order:

1. Distilled water
2. Rain water
3. City water in most localities, but a few are troublesome because of the mineral content.
4. Some well waters are suitable, others mean trouble, and some mean certain death for our plants.

This is probably a good time to caution you in the use of certain kinds of water. Never use a water with a high sodium content, and many artesian and other well waters are of this kind. For the same reason it is very dangerous to use water from the usual household softener as sodium in great quantities is used in softening hard water. If feasible avoid any water with a high mineral content. Always age any water long enough for it to at least reach the same temperature as that in the violet room, and if chlorine is used in purifying the water let it age in an open vessel at least twenty-four hours. I find it really best to have the water at a slightly higher temperature than room temperature, but not more than five degrees higher. This higher temperature is especially good if your plants have been allowed to become too dry as it stimulates them.

In my opinion there are two things caused by improper watering that are our greatest sources of injury and failure of African violets. They are insufficient soil moisture and soil salinity. Of course the first is simply solved by more frequent watering, or a soil that will retain moisture longer, or lessening evaporation, in accordance with your needs. The second problem



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RESEARCH MEMBERS . . . Research members pay at least \$20.00 for each twelvemonth period of membership, and at last 85% of each membership paid shall be applied to the Research Fund of the Society.

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The Society is happy to welcome members from all parts of the world. Application for membership should be sent direct to the Treasurer. Remittance for membership dues, by check, draft or postal money order, should be made payable in United States funds.

A BIG THANK YOU

From — Dorothy Reaume, Convention Chairman

To — All our fellow members of the Society who attended (860 strong) the Convention in Detroit, Michigan, we appreciated having you come to the meeting.

To — The officers of the Society who gave their support, encouragement, and were so generous with praise for all our people working on the Convention.

To — The Companies and Individuals who donated the gifts for the Kit Bags, Doorprizes, etc., and a vote of appreciation also.

To — The Commercial Members for their beautiful displays which (as always) adds so very, very much to the show.

To — Last but not least, by far, all of the Convention Chairmen and the members of their Committees for their unsparing effort and cooperation. It was a real privilege and a pleasure to work with everyone of you.

The Local Group had fun planning and having the Convention in Detroit. We hope that you had fun too. So . . .

To — All the above "thank you" again. You were wonderful!

THE 1960 CONVENTION

The Annual Meeting and Convention of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., will be held in Atlantic City, New Jersey, March 31st, April 1st and 2nd, 1960. The headquarters Hotel will be Chalfonte-Haddon Hall.

Mrs. Clarence Howard, 819 Kimball Avenue, Westfield, New Jersey has been appointed Convention Chairman.

Full particulars concerning reservations for meals, rooms at Chalfonte-Haddon Hall, Society

and Special Awards for the Amateur Show, schedules for both the Amateur Show and Commercial Exhibit, advance registration for the Judging School held at the Convention each year, will be in the pink sheets of the December African Violet Magazine. Some preliminary Special Awards will be announced in the September Magazine so that extra growing time will be available for plants named in these awards.

—Editor

SPECIAL NOTICE TO CLUB PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN:

Please send all Club News (Maxine Wangberg, 1400 N. 118th Street, Wauwatosa 13, Wisconsin) and Show News and Views (Eunice Fisher, Rt. 3, Box 284, Oshkosh, Wisconsin) reports to the editors of these columns as it will expedite their publication in the magazine as well as being of great assistance to me. Also, do send the names of plants and people in photographs.

—Editor.

of soil salinity is solved to a certain extent by more frequent watering and in the use of larger amounts of pure water to flush out the saline salts that accumulate. Since these two are so important let's give them a little more consideration and analysis.

As to dry soil. All of you know by observation a very large part of an African violet plant is water, some say about eighty percent water. Also, we know that the plant passes a great deal of this water into the atmosphere by transpiration. So the quantity of moisture we must keep in the soil is quite large as we must have a quantity sufficient to take care of the following from one watering to another:

Soil retention, which includes the pot if it is porous

Plant retention

Plant transpiration

Evaporation from soil and pot

This adds up to quite a quantity of water and is to a very large extent gauged by the size of the plant, the pot or other container, the type of soil, the temperature, and the humidity. If the plant does not have soil moisture in plenty it can't take up food and you know what that means. Now I am going to make a statement that may sound rather foolish and without basis to some of you. With the proper soil mixture and correct potting I do not believe that a plant can be overwatered at the root zone. If so, answer this question for me: If the root zone can be overwatered, how is it that you are able to grow plants in a container filled with water? That brings us to the second of these two last mentioned problems, salinity.

What is salinity? It is a condition brought about by the chemical salts that remain in the soil after composting of the soil, the dissolved minerals in the water used, and fertilizers. This condition is the cause of most of the repotting we have to do after a plant has grown in the soil for a period of time. Many think that repotting is caused by depletion of the soil which would never occur unless you used little or no fertilizer and distilled water. In my opinion, unless something has upset the drainage, and then I think upset drainage has just hurried the foul condition of the soil, salinity is the cause of that condition we all blame on overwatering. Experiment shows me that when these salts build up in the soil to a certain level the plant just becomes paralyzed and can't take up any water, food, or air and of course you know what happens to any living thing when that condition exists for only a very short period of time. Technically the osmotic pressure in the plant and the soil solution become equalized and there is no transfer back and forth. You might liken it to a certain extent to heart failure and low blood pressure in an animal. The remedy for this condition is not complicated. Use as pure a water as you can obtain, use small quantities of fertilizer with more frequent feeding of plants, and leach your

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soil frequently by running large quantities of pure water through the soil. Pots and other containers should be kept as free as possible from the accumulation of these same mineral salts as they pass from the soil to the outside of the pot, forming the white accumulation we see on the pots, and which is the cause of petiole rot. Too, under proper conditions these salts will return in small amounts to the soil and increase the salinity damage. The greater the amount of moisture retained in the soil the less damage from salinity, especially in hot weather. This salinity will cause yellow and brown spots on leaves, especially at the tip ends and margins of leaves and injured places, and will ultimately cause the death of the plant. Of course, good drainage is essential. Also, when possible, do not use water and fertilizers that contain those minerals which can't be used by the plant. I have taken plants which are said to have been drowned by too much watering and by correcting the drainage, if needed, and leaching them plenty have restored them to health and bloom without changing the soil or removing them from the pot. It must not have gone too far, of course, and it takes a long time for recovery by this method alone. (Since preparing this paper in early 1958 I have had an opportunity to read "The University of California System for Producing Healthy Container-Grown Plants" edited by Kenneth F. Baker, which is also known as "Manual 23 of the California Agricultural Experiment Station Extension Service." On page 87 of this Manual the same idea is set out as to salinity instead of overwatering.)

When to water? Formerly I watered every plant every morning very generously whether it was wet or dry and regardless of the humidity percent or any other condition I found. After a short while of experimentation with a number of the methods others used, I returned to the daily

watering, but if a plant appears to have sufficient moisture for a twenty-four hour period and humidity is good I pass it until the next day. Morning is the best time to water and bedtime the poorest. Note first your humidguide reading. Below sixty percent moisture and signs of needing water, give water in plenty before four p.m. in the afternoon to those plants showing need and less to those indicating less need. After four p.m. in the afternoon do not water unless the need appears urgent and the humidity is less than sixty percent. This is natural humidity considered here and not your artificial humidity. This applies to spraying also, whether to increase humidity or for prevention of disease.

Since you are intelligent people I know very well some of you are going home and try out some of these things we have been talking about, and some others will do none of these things because from this time on you are going to let your plants tell you what they like and need instead of listening to some expert.

Articles in the African Violet Magazine relative to watering or humidity. Some of these articles are on other subjects but contain references to our subject. There are many other articles in these and other issues referring to watering or humidity, but these were thought to be the most applicable. See the general index which accompanied your December 1958 issue for other references.

March 1954, page 24, "How to Grow and Bloom African Violets in the Home," an excerpt subject "Temperature and Humidity," J. Lawrence Heinl, Floriculturist.

June 1954, page 14, "Tanga Province, Home of the Saintpaulia," Mrs. P. D. Barker, Tanga, East Africa.

September 1954, page 25, "The A B C's of African Violet Growing," Mrs. Irene Pendleton, Kansas City, Missouri.

March 1956, page 28, "Let There Be Light," M. Eugene Sundt, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

June 1956, page 65, "Provide a Greenhouse Atmosphere," Robert S. Camburn, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

December 1956, page 14, "African Violets for the Home," Edna Jones, Beaumont, Texas.

March 1957, page 50, "Humidity and Plant Growth," J. Fisher Stanfield and C. John Burk, Miami University.

September 1957, page 71, "Watering Plants," Helen Thompson, Ottawa, Canada.

page 72, "May I Share It with You," Lela M. Burton, Arkansas City, Kansas.

December 1957, page 7, "Wick Pots," Elinor Rodda, Ossian, Indiana.

March 1958, page 16, "Top Watering of African Violets," H. G. Harvey, Atlanta, Georgia.

page 46, "Temperature-Humidity Ratio," Colonel Bert Rosenbaum, U. S. Army.

page 73, "House Plant Water," an excerpt from Garden Reporter, Rutgers, N. J.

page 79, "Memorable Mistakes," Alma Wright, Editor.

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June 1958, page 24, "I Planted, Apollos Watered," Bess Dykeman, South Bend, Indiana.
 page 32, "In My Violet Room," Marjorie Buckner, Pleasant Hill, Missouri.
 page 44, "Wick Watering," Mrs. John L. Ricker, Norwood, Pennsylvania.
 page 47, "Keep Your Greenhouse Right for Healthy Plants," Margaret L. Travis, Knoxville, Tennessee.
 page 52, "Saudi Arabia," Jennie J. Dakers, Ras Tanura, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.
 September 1958, page 19, "Drainage," Bunnie McGraw, Downers Grove, Illinois.
 page 20, "Success and Enjoyment of African Violets," William L. Meacham, Associate Editor, Flower Grower Magazine, New York, New York.
 page 25, "Chlorine Treated Water," Freeman Weiss, Washington, D. C.
 page 34, "The Little Things Count," Helena Pearl Thomas, Walnut Creek, California.
 page 40, "The Thrills and Headaches of a Small Greenhouse," Mary Margaret Odom, Marshall, Missouri.
 page 49, "Evils of Overwatering," Bunnie McGraw, Downers Grove, Illinois.

page 69, "Success with Wick Watering," Mrs. Alfred D. Swaim, Indianapolis, Indiana.
 page 72, "Hints and Reminders," Esther E. Schadewald, Havertown, Pa.
 December 1958, page 12, "The Blessing in Disguise," Jane P. Knight, Lynn, Massachusetts.
 page 16, "African Violets Need High Fertility," K. C. Berger, Department of Soils, University of Wisconsin.
 page 18, "On Growing African Violets in a City Apartment," Pauline Klein, New York, New York.
 page 20, "Adventures with Violets," Mrs. John Baumel, Sparta, Wisconsin.
 page 24, "Could Your Violet Troubles Be Caused by Water?," Marie Dannemiller, Barberton, Ohio.
 page 28, "Capillary Action," Bunnie McGraw, Downers Grove, Illinois.
 page 46, "Those Evils — Root Rot and Petiole Rot," Joe Schulz, Indianapolis, Indiana.
 page 55, "More on Temperature Humidity Ratio," Mrs. G. M. Johnson, Hudson, P. Q., Canada. end

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LITTLE HINTS FROM HERE AND THERE

Edna Parker, Knoxville, Tennessee

It has been announced by some entomologists that the French marigold (*Tagetes*) planted in soil infested with nematodes will rid the soil of those pests.

Have heard that if you have any leftover vitamin pills, especially those containing vitamin B-1, you may dissolve one in a glass of water and water your violets lightly. However, it seems an expensive way to give plants a boost . . . and brings to mind the thought that vitamins for humans are not supposed to be the same kind as those for plants — are they?

Better Homes and Gardens is the authority for the information that the value of the African violets grown and sold in a single year is within \$1,000 of the value of all apple trees grown in nurseries, and of all citrus fruit trees grown in a year. There may be many private growers whose sales would add tremendously to these figures.

When going away from home and leaving violets, we have been told to use a string as a wick from a jar of water to a plant. Now comes the suggestion to fold a paper towel to the width of an inch and use it as the aqueduct.

A squash seed planted in any soil where nematodes are suspected, makes a good guinea pig. When the squash has developed four leaves, pull it up. If there are knots on the roots, nematodes are present.

A member sent in this one. There are two types of crazy women in this world — the ones who love African violets; and the ones who are just plain crazy.

Another member suggests this one. A spring show in our African violet club is like a revival meeting in church. Besides the new members we gain, the old ones resolve to do better.

A lighting expert says that flat white paint reflects light better than aluminum foil.

Mrs. Hazel R. Kautenberg, flower arranging authority, of Atlanta, Georgia, gives this recipe for candied African violet blossoms. Choose fresh, clean, double violet blooms. Dip these in a solution of gum Arabic and water mixed to the consistency of egg white, then dip each flower in very fine granulated sugar. Dry on a paper towel.

Growers have used many things to feed African violets, from baking powder to milk, to water in which eggshells have been soaked. Now a Swedish scientist says that coffee grounds contain .02% nitrogen, .36% phosphoric acid, and .67% potash. Perhaps a mulch of coffee grounds would be good for any plant.

All gardeners should have a compost heap. The organic matter should be not only leaves, grass and weeds, but should contain vegetable parings and discarded vegetables. These hasten decomposition. Over each ten inch layer of organic matter spread two inches of soil, then sprinkle on fertilizer. The type of fertilizer depends upon what use is to be made of the compost. For acid loving plants, use a cup of sulphate of ammonia, one half-cup of superphosphate, and one tablespoon of Epsom Salts on each layer. If the compost is to be used for vegetables or perennials, substitute dolomitic limestone for the Epsom Salts. To be used for household plants, the compost must be completely decayed and finely disintegrated.

Formerly it was believed that plants absorbed their food only through the roots, but now feeding through the leaves has become an accepted practice. Soil feeding may be supplemented by spraying vegetable gardens, flower beds, or indoor plants with one of the standard soluble fertilizers. They are concentrated mixtures, so follow the directions and use plenty of water. Frequent applications of a weak solution are better than infrequent large doses.

Chemically softened water used on plants daily will kill them within nine months. If all your water is run through a water softener, collect rain water for your violets.

When the air in the home is hot and dry, and no one is at home during the day, plants set in plastic pots will grow better because the pots are non-porous and the soil does not dry out so quickly as in the porous clay pots. Thus, fewer roots are lost.

Whether to water from the top or bottom of the pot has been debated for years. If the pot is clay and porous, the plant in it can be watered from the bottom by setting the pot in a pan of water and allowing water to soak up. A plant in a plastic pot has to be watered from the top because the pot will not take up water from a pan.

It really doesn't make a bit of difference whether watering is done from above or below, just so the plant gets sufficient water, but not too much, and the foliage is kept dry.

Don't overpot, don't overwater, don't overfeed.

Too large a pot means air cannot reach the plant roots; too much water means the same thing, since the soil becomes waterlogged; and too much fertilizer can force cell sap to ooze out of the plant into the soil, thus causing severe wilting, from which the plant may not recover.

If you are wondering whether plants are getting enough light to produce flowers, hold your hand six inches above a plant at noon on a sunny day. Spread your fingers wide, then look down at the plant. If you can clearly see the

shadows of each finger, then the plant has plenty of light and should bloom. Otherwise, better move it to another location.

If flower stalks appear on the plant, but grow only about an inch and a half high and are threadlike and dry up speedily, your plant is getting sufficient light, but the soil is not rich enough. The custom of using a large proportion of peat in the soil mixture, makes roots grow wonderfully but does not help the plant produce flowers. In this case, fertilize weekly with a good liquid fertilizer for at least two months. Make sure the fertilizer you use has a high percentage of phosphorus. Always water just before you fertilize.

When a plant suddenly loses one of the older leaves, which has first become mushy, the fault is in the watering. Each time one of the older leaves dies in this fashion, it indicates the plant has already lost some of its roots. This back and forth loss can go on and on, and always indicates that you left the plant soaking in water overnight once too often. Change your practices immediately to save the plant.

Sometimes the small center leaves suddenly turn black while the outer leaves remain healthy. This means you left the plant sitting in liquid fertilizer all night. The tender new leaves are the first to show the effects of the dehydration thus induced.

If flowers drop the same day they open, the soil has become too rich and it is time to "leach" it. This means pouring clear water through the soil over and over again, to cleanse it of the too high concentration of chemicals.

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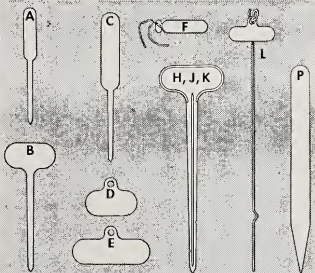
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April 4th

Hi Neighbors!

April 17th

I must get this column going. Wonder what would be interesting to you folks.

April 30th

Where did the last two weeks go? Nothing written yet. I'll think about it while I do the laundry.

May 15th

Mrs. C., may I remind you that in a little over two weeks folks will be reading this column and as yet there is nothing to read. I'll get my type-writer NOW and think of something. Let's see . . . O, here comes Grandmaw.

Hope I'm not interrupting you, I saw you jest a-settin on the porch an starin' into space all the time I was hangin' up my wash. My, it sure is nice out here. Why, a body can see Mt. Equinox jest as plain, and it's as blue as cobalt. It's a fur piece away too — over in Vermont. Ever been up there? Paw an I drove up there once with the horse an' buggy. Reminded me of something Paw read to me by Henry Van Dyke. Said he talked to an old man on a mountain trail an' the feller said he always liked to be up on a high mountain cause it gave him sech a "Heaven-up-histed" feelin. Well, I'll jest wander in your plant room fer a minute. I'd like a purty plant fer Emmy Grubb, her birthday is next week. Don't mind, do you?

No, Grandmaw, help yourself. You'll find a nice Cloud Fringe of Limmie's that is getting too big for my bench. Now, let's see . . . where was I . . . What did you say, Grandmaw? No, I'm sorry, you can't have that deep glowing pink. It's one of Lyn Lyon's newest ones, called Gold Band. Take Little Jewel if you like . . . that's a frilled deep pink. Guess I may as well make a fresh pot of coffee. I can see that work will be at a standstill temporarily.

Land sakes, I jest couldn't make up my mind, so I took em both. Um-m-m, fresh coffee . . . mind if I set fer a minute? This big porch is sech a relaxin spot. I brought back those Flower Grower magazines you lent Paw. Who did you say sent it to you?

Why, you must remember the brother and sister who stopped here in the summer.

My soul and body! There's so many folks that come, I can't remember em all. O, didn't they have a cute little girl with them?

Yes, they are the ones. Remember how ashamed I was of my plant room? I had been on crutches for six weeks and the plants had no attention, but the folks were kind enough to overlook it. Here's your coffee, Grandmaw.

Thanks . . . good and strong, ain't it? You know, I was jest a-thinkin . . . member the nursery rhymes you did for Stevie an Betsy? I'll bet a cookie the readers would like em too. I sorta brought em along . . . jest in case.

Why, Grandmaw, I did those for your grandchildren because they were so interested in Saint-paulias.

Well jest the same, grown-ups enjoy silly things now and then. Even the daily papers have a comic page . . . an folks read that.

O, all right, Grandmaw, I'll put them in.



NURSERY NONSENSE

Old Mother Goose, when she wanted to wander
Would ride through the air
to buy violets out yonder.

Lady Bird, Lady Bird, fly away home
Your house is on fire, your violets are gone.

There was an old woman who lived under the hill
She raised African violets on her window sill.

Pussy cat, Pussy cat, where have you been?
 I've been to London to see the Queen.
 Pussy cat, Pussy cat, what did you there?
 I went to an African violet fair.

My little man and I fell out.
 I'll tell you what it was all about.
 I wanted money to buy more violet plants . . .
 He said he left his money in his other pants!

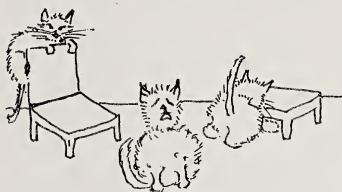
If all the world were apple pie
 If all the seas were ink
 If all the violets were double blue
 What should we do for double pink?

Old Mother Hubbard went to the cupboard
 To get her poor violets some food.
 When she got there the cupboard was bare
 For her plants . . . that wasn't so good.

Tommy Trot, a man of law,
 sold his bed and lay on straw,
 Sold the straw and lay on hay
 to buy his wife a Saintpaul-i-a.

Jack and Jill went up the hill
 A violet plant to buy.
 Jack fell down and broke his crown.
 And Jill could only cry.
 (Because she didn't get the violet)

Little Boy Blue, come blow your horn
 The plants all need water as sure as you're born.
 Where is the gal who looks after these beauties?
 She's gone to buy more, and neglected her duties.



THREE LITTLE KITTENS.

Three little kittens lost their mittens
 They hunted all around
 They couldn't go to the Violet Show
 Till their mittens they had found.

Dillar a dollar, ten o'clock scholar
 How come you're here so soon?
 I got up to tend my violet plants
 So here I am . . . by noon.

Baa Baa Black sheep, have you any wool?
 No sir, kind sir, not one bag full!
 My owner clipped it and sold it for money,
 To buy a new violet called my Double Honey!

Hi Diddle Diddle, the cat and the fiddle
 Violets all over the room.
 The little dog laughed to see such plants
 Because every one was in bloom.



Mary, Mary, quiet contrary
 How do your violets grow?
 Do you keep them turned and watered well
 To win ribbons at a show?

If I'd as much money as I could spend
 I'd never cry old chairs to mend.
 I'd buy African violets by the bushel and peck
 And spend until it was gone, by Heck!

Taffy was a Welshman, Taffy was a thief,
 Taffy came to my house and stole a violet leaf.

Mary had a little plant
 Its blooms were white as snow
 She watered it and tended it
 And watched it bigger grow.

Hickory Dickery Dock
 The mouse ran up the clock.
 From there he could view
 Each violet new
 Hickory Dickery Dock.

There was an old lady who lived in a shoe
 She had so many violets
 she didn't know what to do.
 Some got no light, some weren't fed
 Most of them drooped until they were dead.

Little Miss Muffet
 Sat on a tuffet
 Watching her violets bloom



Up came a spider
 And sat down beside her
 Saying Hi Kid! Do you plant by the moon?

Twinkle twinkle little star,
 how I wonder what you are
 Up above the world so high,
 like a violet in the sky.

WHAT KIND OF POTS DO YOU USE?

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"Recent experiments have shown that pot plants can be grown successfully in almost any type of container provided two requirements are met," says Gustav Mehlquist, professor of Floriculture, University of Connecticut.

1. The container must be equipped with large enough drainage holes in the bottom so that all excess water drains through when the plants are watered.

2. The frequency of waterings must be adjusted to the particular type of container used.

The red clay pot has long been the standard in pot plant culture. Not only is it usually made with large enough drainage holes, but also is porous so that fair amounts of water are evaporated through the walls of the pot. By contrast, most other types of containers, whether made of ceramics, metals, or plastics, have often been made with drainage holes that are too small or even with no provision for drainage at all. Little or no water is lost through the walls of these containers, which means that you must be much more careful in watering. If you overwater, plants in non-porous containers are more likely to rot than those in porous containers. On the other hand, if you forget to water, the soil in the non-porous container will stay moist longer than soil in porous pots.

Careful gardeners who water plants according to the condition of the soil rather than on a set schedule will have success growing plants in any kind of container. Less frequent applications of fertilizers will be needed by plants grown in non-porous containers since less frequent watering usually means less loss of fertilizers.

The frequent waterings needed by plants in clay pots probably results in the loss of one-half or more of the fertilizers applied, according to Professor Mehlquist. However, the cost of fertilizers is usually so small in comparison with the time and effort required in growing potted plants that the choice of containers is not likely to be influenced greatly by the saving of one-half of the fertilizer cost, says Gustav Mehlquist.

The factors that should be considered are indicated by these questions:

1. Can good plants be grown in the container I have chosen by appropriate methods of culture?
2. Does this type of container have any advantage over other types I am using?
3. Are suitable sizes readily available at reasonable cost?

Experiments conducted at many experiment stations and universities have shown that with appropriate adjustments in watering and ferti-



TWINKLE, TWINKLE, LITTLE STAR.

Curley Locks, Curley Locks, wilt thou be mine
Thou shalt not wash dishes
nor yet feed the swine.
I'll buy you African violets
by the dozens and dozens
And then you can share them
with all of your cousins.
Old King Cole was a merry old soul
And a merry old soul was he.
He called for his pipe
And he called for his bowl
And he called for his violets three.
(This was long ago . . . that's why he had only three.)

You know, the more I think about it . . . you somehow manage to get into every column.

Shucks! Jest because I give you ideas once in a while . . . Well, what WERE you goin to write about?

It so happens that I was planning to write about gesneriads, the small ones that take up so little space, are tolerant to strong light, cool spots and fairly dry soil. I counted nineteen in wide and thirty-seven inches high. By now I have my kitchen window which is twenty-five inches used all the space with your silly rhymes, so I'll have to wait till next time.

Have a happy summer, everybody, and Grandma and I will be with you all in September. If you travel around, look for some of the fascinating small relatives of your Saintpaulias. You will be captivated by their charm, find them easy to grow and definitely rewarding. So, until Fall, when we have our next coffee-chat, God willin' . . . Bye now. end

AFRICAN VIOLETS

Fresh cut leaves by mail. Send stamp for list.
350 varieties plants at house. Evenings week days;
after 1:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

VELMA KNOWLTON

715 W. Housatonic Street

Pittsfield, Ma's.

lizer schedules, and to some extent in the choice of soil, good plants can be grown in almost any type of container so long as good drainage is provided. Excess water in dishes or saucers underneath pots is more dangerous with non-porous pots than with porous ones. Pour off water not absorbed by the soil within half an hour.

The appearance of plastic or ceramic containers does not change much with age since there is virtually no discoloration from salts or algae. The light weight of plastics and the bright colors in which plastics and ceramics are available appeals to many housewives who prefer a color to match home decorations.

Reasonable cost would tend to eliminate the general use of ceramic pots, in fact most types except the clay and plastic pots are too expensive. Since most plants can usually be grown with the least effort if the container size is appropriate for the size of the plant, the availability of many different sizes to choose from is an important point. The so-called three-quarter types, known as azalea pots or cyclamen pots, are often better for some house plants than the standard type, which is as deep as it is wide. The three-quartered types, that are usually available in four-inch and larger sizes, are not only better for growing shallow rooted plants like begonias, gloxinias, African violets, and ferns, but are much more stable on a greenhouse shelf or window sill. The bulb pan, a low squatty pot about one-half the depth of the standard type, is well suited for starting seeds. end

TERRIFIC!

New soil mix based on University of California Manual recommendations. (See article in A. V. Magazine, Dec. 1958, page 22.) Sterilized and treated with V-C 13.

3 qt. bag — \$1.00, 3 bags for \$2.50, post-paid east of Mississippi, west add 45¢. Special rates for clubs.

Doris Leigh

P. O. Box 51

Montvale, N. J.

AFRICAN VIOLETS

Choice Old and New Varieties
Grown under fluorescent lights

Rooted Cuttings

Small Plants

Stamp for list.

MRS. HAZEL PRICE

New Virginia, Iowa

VISIT TO MR. WICKS'

Frances K. Roake, Send, N. Woking, England

In June, my husband and I went to Nottingham to visit Mr. Wicks and were given a wonderful time from our arrival at the station until our departure the following afternoon.

We met many of the members of the First British Branch of the African Violet Society at a get-together in the evening. Mr. Wicks showed us all his well-stocked houses of large numbers of African violets, also his house plants and indoor gardens. To round off a very happy evening we were shown a quantity of lantern slides in colour, of which he has an inexhaustible supply.

To make our stay even more memorable, we were awakened in the small hours of the morning by the unmistakable sounds of cattle padding and snorting under our bedroom windows. These unwanted nocturnal visitors had made an entry at the far end of the nursery and were exploring every corner it seemed. Eventually they were cleared off the premises, after an hour's hard work by the family, and at three a.m. the household turned in again to sleep.

After breakfast we again visited the greenhouses, especially those devoted to the African violets.

The time passed all too quickly and soon we were back home at Send after a most enjoyable visit. end

THE CONIBERS

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BLUE PEACOCK, WINTER SUNSET, KATRINA,
GAE BALLET

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ATTENTION: Club Presidents

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Tulsa, Okla.

THE SAINTPAULIANS SAY IT'S FUN TO GROW AFRICAN VIOLETS IN OREGON

As Told To Arnetta Bjornson, Portland, Oregon

Yes, it is fun to grow African violets. Fun because the first plants are often gift plants; fun because from that plant you want to know more about African violets; fun because from there on you get more and more African violets and meet many, many interesting people.

Of the members poled at a recent meeting, all had received their first plant as a gift. Most of us started our collections in the late forties and early fifties at the time when few plants were named. One started with that old stand-by, Blue Boy, which was an unknown but was later identified. Another was given a beautiful plant by her children on their return from living in Hawaii. The plant was purchased at a florist because it was different and had a profusion of bloom, but the florist failed to identify the plant, not even telling the youngsters that it was an African violet. Later a friend identified it, took it home to divide, and that was the last seen of that plant!!!

But that did not deter our member. She had loved that African violet and wanted more, so went looking. She found a greenhouse full of plants and got her mother one and herself three. These were the multiple crowned plants, and, by following directions given by her friend, she divided these plants — from three to nineteen! Then her sister told her this favorite house plant of hers could be propagated by rooting leaves. Next count was fifty-nine plants, the next over one hundred, and just before going away for a vacation in 1957, this member gave away three hundred plants. All were raised in an apartment in natural light.

LIGHT

We here in Oregon find that most of the time natural light is not sufficient for our African violets, unless we are blessed with ideal window placements. One of our members, who has won a National Award, is fortunate in having a south and west exposure for her plants. All wrong? No, not where she is located, with trees to filter the hot afternoon sunshine, and with curtains that can be drawn if needed. But she, too, has artificial light for other of her plants . . . they just cannot all get into that south-west window exposure!

Another grows hers in a north window. Here they do well and the light is good except in the hotter part of the summer when the plants need protection from the early sun. A north office window sill, with the window reaching practically to the ceiling, and with a reflection from the outer light brick wall, has been found to be an excellent spot for African violets. Here they

bloom all year around. A large floor-to-ceiling east window in a new home is proving very satisfactory for African violets for another member.

Those of us growing African violets under fluorescent light have stands. One is a Flora Cart, the others large stands placed in basements. We use white lights mostly, burning them from fourteen to fifteen hours per day.

DISEASES AND INSECTS

Growing plants in basements, where there is not a good movement of air, brings its problems, too. For here fungous diseases like to run rampant. This was solved by one member by placing a small electric fan nearby and thereby creating an air current. Others have had fungus troubles, but by picking off leaves showing water spots, no serious damage has been done to collections.

As a group we have been very fortunate in having a minimum of insect trouble. Sodium selenate solution in the soil has been used for that ever-feared cyclamen mite. Recently, a commercial grower has suggested that plants be sprayed once a month with that new product, Kelthane EC, that is available locally in small containers. This past summer there were reports of small caterpillars appearing after small moths were seen around the plants. These were easily killed. The interesting report here was that in one collection these caterpillars appeared only on the white flowered plants. They must be especially tasty!

SOIL AND WATER

Potting soil mixes of various kinds have been tried, and now most of us are following one of our own that was built around Marie Dannemiller's suggestions. Ours is:

- 2 quarts peat moss
- 2 quarts Blue Whale
- 3 pints sand
- 1 pint fine chicken gravel
- 2½ pints Rock Phosphate
- 1¼ pints raw bone meal
- ½ pint limestone rock
- 1¼ pints medium charcoal
- 2½ pints cow manure
- 2 pints Hybro-Tite Potash
- ¾ pint normal soil
- 4 tablespoons Fernocide (Ferbam)
- 4 tablespoons Activo

With this mixture, there is very little feeding necessary for plants in an ordinary collection.

Show plants, of course, would need special attention.

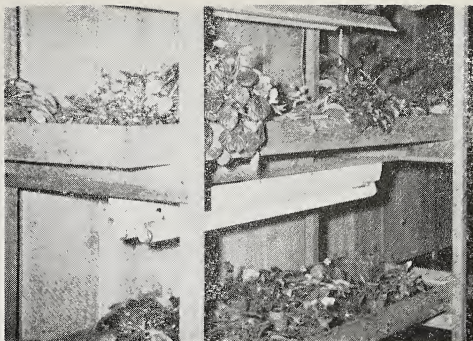
One member, who mixes this soil for us, was asked whether sand from the ocean beach would be satisfactory. The opinion was that this sand would be too fine for the soil mix, but that the amount of salt in the sand would not hurt the plants. In feeding, all were using one-half of the manufacturers' label recommendations for potted plants. One member is having good results, with nicely shaped plants and good bloom, when she feeds her plants at this rate every week. These plants are grown in a south window, shaded by trees from the hot afternoon sun.

Watering plants only when they need it was emphasized, for overwatering can bring troubles of crown rot as well as other fungous diseases. But, here is the secret — don't let the plants get too dry. Water them when the top soil seems dry to the touch. The time of the day seemed to be optional, although some prefer to water in the morning, and always with room temperature water. The vote was three to one for top watering. One member is experimenting with pots placed in sand. In the tray, she first puts one and one-half inches of gravel, then two inches of sand, and buries the pots in the sand about one and one-half inches. She keeps a continual supply of water in the gravel and this keeps the sand and pots continually damp. It is a splendid way to keep the necessary humidity around the plants. Leaves are put down in the sand, too, with less leaf rot than has been experienced with other means.

CLEANING AND TRANSPLANTING

One member keeps her plants clean by washing them weekly, another does it about once a month, while the rest of us brush the leaves occasionally. The plants, of course, should be carefully cleaned, in one manner or another, before a show.

There has been much discussion about when to transplant, with the final decision being to do

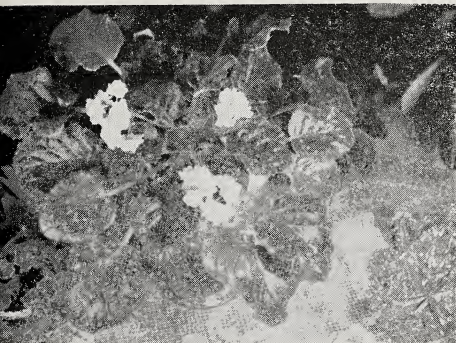


Many members grow their plants in stands equipped with fluorescent lights.

it when the plant is pot-bound and coming into full bud. As to containers, most of us prefer the clay pots, as do a host of African violet growers. Plastic pots are used by some, with special attention being given to watering, as plants do not dry out so quickly in the plastic pots. For displaying favorite plants, the remark was made that anything that will hold water will hold an African violet.

PEOPLE

The fun of growing African violets surely is extended to the fun of meeting mutual enthusiasts throughout the Northwest — the fun of going to meetings and shows in Seattle, Tacoma, Kirkland, Boise, Longview, Salem, and of going to and participating in the shows held in Portland! And now, we are impatiently waiting for 1962 and the National Convention on the West Coast. California, here we come! It will be fun to meet "in the flesh" all those whom we know by name only. end



Left, White Puff
Below, an arrangement of Flirtations.



REGISTRATION REPORT ...

Constance Hansen, Box 302, Lafayette, California

PART 1

The following applications for registration have been received during the period from January 30, 1959, to April 3, 1959.

PLANT AND REGISTRANT

WINTRY ROSE (1111) OW29dS, 2/2/59, Wilson Bros., Roachdale, Ind.
 DESERT STAR (1112) P2sS, HEADLINER (1113) P46sS, LILAC DALE (1114) OX25dfS, MOJAVE (1115) BV1sS, SKYWAY (1116) MB8sS, 2/5/59, E. E. Hammond, 3917 Copeland Lane, Irvington, Calif.
 IOWA SUNSET (1117) R26sfS, 2/15/59, H. E. Niemann, 3105 Grove St., Newport, Iowa
 BREATHLESS (1118) R25dfS, FRINGED NOSEGAY (1119) PC85dfS, PURPLE HONEY (1120) V59dfS, 2/24/59, Mrs. G. S. Vallin, 2455 Hayes Lane, Beaumont, Texas
 MARITIMER (1121) WP8dS, NOVA SCOTIA BLUENOSE (1122) P8dS, 2/25/59, Mrs. J. A. Beach, Rockingham Station SS#1, Halifax Co., Nova Scotia, Canada
 P.T. LORRA (1123) P6dS, P.T. WINSOME (1124) OX4sS, 3/7/59, Edena Gardens, 461 Bridge Rd., Walnut Creek, Calif.
 HAPPY FELLA (1125) P23dS, 3/10/59, Mrs. C. F. Richard, 95 Meadowbrook Rd., Williamsville 21, New York
 BUD'S PINK BEGONIA (1126) P2sS, 4/3/59, Tay-Bow African Violets, R. 4, Caro, Mich.

PART II

The following name reservations have been received from January 30, 1959, to April 3, 1959, Long Island Igy, Prairie Shadows, Mountain Storm, Elusive Gold, Top Brass, Carefree, Hilltop. end

FOUND AT LAST

THE IDEAL LIGHT FOR AFRICAN VIOLETS. You've read about it in the March 1956 Issue of the African Violet Magazine "LET THERE BE LIGHT" by M. Eugene Sundt. You can get it only at Floralite.

NEW IDEAL 4 TUBE DUALITE FLUORESCENT WITH 2 SOCKETS FOR INCANDESCENT LIGHTS INCLUDING 3 PINK AND 1 BLUE 40 WATT FLUORESCENT TUBES WITH CORD AND PLUG. Fixture 48 in. long and 16 in. reflector. Delivered \$26.00.

NEW IDEAL 5 TUBE FLUORESCENT FIXTURE

48 in. long 16 in. reflector available with any color tubes. Write for prices.



NEW DUALITE a combination of incandescent and fluorescent lights made especially for African violets 48 in. long 13 in. reflector. 2-40 watt tubes. 2-15 watt sockets with cord and plug. \$13.50 plus \$2.50 postage and packing.

FLUORESCENT FIXTURE 48 in. long 13 in. reflector with 2-40 watt tubes, cord and plug \$11.50 plus \$2.50 postage and packing.

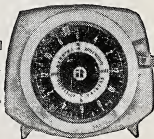
16 IN. LEGS to convert any fixture to table lamp \$2.00 P. P.

"GARDENING INDOORS UNDER LIGHTS" By Frederick & Jacqueline Kranz \$4.95



NEW STARLITE GARDEN LAMP is the most beautiful and useful lamp made. The perforated steel shade filters the lights into your room. Rubber tipped legs will not mar or slip. 33 in. long, 14 in. wide and 18 in. high. Will accommodate 32 or more plants. Black Wrought Iron with white reflector with cord plug, switch and 2-20 watt 24 in. long tubes. \$22.50 Post Paid.

Just set and forget. Your lights will go on and off automatically. No more light worries. Special 875 watt \$9.50, 1650 watt \$10.00 postpaid.



Plastic Trays 12 x 18 x 2 1/2 at 65¢ each in lots of 12 plus postage. Send for literature.
FOR THE FIRST TIME THE FLORALITE CART, an attractive indoor greenhouse with lustrous Hi-Impact Polystyrene Trays. These 2 1/2 in. deep plant trays never rot, rust or corrode. Available in two or three tier models with adjustable height Fluorescent or Dualite Fixtures. Tiers are 22 in. wide and 48 in. long. Cart has large, rubber, ball bearing casters. Send for complete information and prices.

FLORALITE COMPANY

4124 E. Oakwood Rd.

South Milwaukee, Wisconsin

SUGGESTIONS ON VARIETIES OF AFRICAN VIOLETS FOR A CITY APARTMENT

Dr. Pauline B. Klein, New York, N. Y.

While the numbers of new varieties of African violets multiply like the broom of the Sorcerer's Apprentice, the lists of these varieties give no indication of how well these plants will perform under urban conditions. We read the lists, and then, we must guess. Guessing is fun in the country where an attic or a cellar can gather in our mistakes, but a city apartment has limited space. Guessing is hazardous for city dwellers. All the plants in an apartment are on display all the time, and a shelf of plants that do not flower is a melancholy sight. It is a sort of advertisement of failure. It is better, then, to choose from the long list of varieties those plants whose ability to flower is quite certain.

Indeed, there are characteristics of some of the plants that help in making a choice. The first consideration is color. Blues, (lavenders and purples), whites and pinks all flower equally well. All these colors, and shades of these colors, are good bloomers. Reds are less good flowerers and tend to lose their deep tone. In general, color is not a factor in how well plants flower.

The size of the flower on an African violet plant does not determine how well the plant flowers. Blue Tango and Royal Bouquet flower very well although the flowers are large. Singles, doubles and fringed varieties all flower equally well. However, the size of the plant is, at times, a factor. The size of a plant in a limited space governs how many plants can be used. In general, many small plants on a shelf look better than a few large plants because the size of the flowers on each plant are very small. Duponts and Supremes, which are large plants, do not flower

well in a city apartment. The plants have long dormant periods and flower sparsely.

From any list of older varieties, fortunately, there are many plants whose ability to flower is quite certain. Crinkles, Purple Knight, Snow Prince, Pink Dilly, to name only a few, will flower almost continually most of the year. These varieties do well under fluorescent light and hold their color well.

However the leaves of varieties like Purple Knight, are uninteresting and an entire shelf of such plants is not very decorative. Varieties with wavy leaves like Autumn, Ruthie, Little Aristocrat are very handsome plants and flower quite as well as the older varieties. These plants are very beautiful as a decoration.

Bicolors and Genevas do not do well in an apartment. They flower very seldom and sparsely and tend to lose their bicolor characteristics. Perhaps, these varieties do not respond to fluorescent light alone.

So there is a partial list of various kinds of African violets to choose from for a shelf of flowering plants. These plants must grow under the difficult conditions of a city apartment. If they are to keep flowering, no matter how fine they will bloom in a greenhouse, they must have their soil changed at least once a year and be allowed to dry out between waterings if they are placed very close together on a shelf. With such care they will flower for years.

Oh yes, and when a new list comes, try a few plants of a new variety, who knows but the new variety will flower even better than the old ones?
end

ENHANCE THE BEAUTY OF YOUR AFRICAN VIOLETS WITH THE KELVIE TABLE-TOP STAND



Space Saving — Decorative — Adjustable

Unique table top stand shows seven plants to their best advantage. Many arrangements are possible because each arm is adjustable both vertically and horizontally. Quickly assembled with seven (4") plastic pots; seven arms; 18" center post; and 12" diameter base. Pots, arms, and center post are copper tone, base is satin black.

Postpaid price — \$6.95 each (no plants)

KELVIE PRODUCTS

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WAYNE, N. J.



1. Mrs. H. F. Herring of Garland, Texas, left, stands behind the trio of African violets that won for her the National African Violet Gold Award. She holds the best Ann Hofmann pink double violet plant in the show, that won the Minnie Marcus Silver Trophy held by Mrs. J. W. Hofmann, named for her and registered by Mrs. W. A. Simmons of Omaha. 2. Mrs. George Pendleton, Kansas City, Mo., with her plant of Clarissa Harris. 3. Beautiful African violets are admired at the Nashville show.

SHOW CALENDAR

● **THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** of San Francisco, will participate in the annual San Francisco Flower Show to be held in the City Hall, San Francisco, on August 20-21. The public is invited. There will be no admission charge.

● **THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COUNCIL** of African Violet Societies will hold an all-day conference on September 19, 1959, at the Hotel Claremont, Berkeley, California. The program includes luncheon, speakers, exhibits and a plant sale. Any violet enthusiast is welcome. Mrs. Millie Blair, 213 Alhambra Ave., Vallejo, California is in charge of reservations for the luncheon.

SHOW News and Views

Deadline dates: For December issue September 1st; For March issue December 1st; For June issue March 1st; for September issue June 1st.

A few items you should know: No photos can be returned. Please do **NOT SEND ME NEGATIVES**. Please send no newspaper clippings. Show News must be confined to 200 words or less.

Eunice Fisher, Show Editor, Route 3, Box 284, Oshkosh, Wisconsin

● **THE AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB** of greater Kansas City held their ninth annual African Violet Show in the little Theatre of the Municipal Auditorium on February 21-22. Theme of the Show was "Violets in the Heart of America" with Mr. Bill Smithson as president and Mrs. Lutie Dunlap serving as Show Coordinator.

A plant of Clarissa Harris was judged best plant in the show and was entered by Mrs. George Pendleton. Mrs. W. Keith Meyers of Westwood, Kansas City, Kansas, won sweepstakes with eighteen blue ribbons. Mrs. John T. Buckner, Pleasant Hill, Missouri, took second place with seventeen blue ribbons. Mrs. Leighton Fossey, Mound City, Kansas, entered plants of Dresden Dream, Blue Nocturne, and Navy Bouquet, for the Gold Award of the African Violet Society of America. Mrs. John T. Buckner's three plants, Fire Dance, Confederate Beauty and Pink Valentine, won second.

Judges were Mrs. Ward Swanson and Mrs. Ray Fountain, both of Des Moines, Iowa; Mrs. Paul Neuman, Wichita, Kansas; and Mrs. W. E. Burton, Arkansas City, Kansas. end

FRATHLET'S ORIGINATIONS

Beautiful New Hybrids
Ruffled and Plain, Variegated Foliage, With Different
Colored Blossoms.

Lovely to Behold are these and many more
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ANNOUNCEMENT

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QUESTION BOX



Anne Tinari

Tinari Greenhouses

Bethayres, Pa.

Dear Friends and Members:

One of my greatest assets in doing this column with you is the great reservoir of interested and alert individuals, who make up our membership, from whom most of these questions and answers will be gleaned.

We are most fortunate in having in our midst people from many and varied walks of life. Botany students of high school and college level, true hobbyists including men and women in all types of business, the intelligent housewife, individuals of learned professions, the amateur and commercial growers, the chemist and professor, all share in this common interest of seriously learning the art of growing African violets to perfection.

Any question and answer column is only successful when there is great reader participation. I am only your moderator and will endeavor to keep your questions and answers lively and up-to-date.

Much can be gained by all in sharing experiences in one common interest: this shall be our goal. It is a real challenge to me as I so vividly remember the darker days of African violet know how before our good and great Society was organized. Then, real knowledge of the Saint-paulia was indeed limited, much had to be gained through the long and costly personal experience of trial and error.

Cordially,
ANNE TINARI

Q. Maybe someone can answer my question. I have talked to several growers and have no suggestions except lack of humidity, but that can't apply, so I'm coming to you for help.

I have an Episcia, Tropical Topaz, which is a strong, healthy plant. It has had many buds, but none have bloomed. They simply dry up and turn brown. The plant is new, a start was given to me in July, I believe, and it has grown by leaps and bounds. I have other Episcias which thrive and are lovely.

Mrs. Herschel O. Hutson, 212 Park Drive, Baltimore 28, Maryland

A. Readers, please write in your experiences on this one. We all need to know how to get Tropical Topaz to bloom profusely.

Q. I have a problem which involves many of my large plants. The plants are very crisp and the

center is bleached looking, the leaves are very brittle and break off easily, yet the outside leaves are beautiful. Buds come on the plants but seldom open; the ones that do open are distorted, and the blossom stems are thick. I do not believe it is my soil or fertilizer and I know it isn't mite. Neither is it contagious, as I have placed some good plants with the affected plants, and nothing happened to them. I have stopped spraying and fertilizing and give them limewater, but nothing does any good.

Mrs. T. E. Smith, 1633 Florida Avenue, Johnstown, Pennsylvania

A. Readers, your help, please.

Q. Could you please tell me where I may purchase the African violet Brussels Sprouts? Mrs. Otto Weyrough, 77 Vanderbilt St., Buffalo 6, New York

A. The firm of Fischer Greenhouses, Linwood, New Jersey, was the originator of the variety, possibly they can help you in your search. Good luck.

Q. I am a new member and new at growing plants under fluorescent lights on trays lined with grit. Can you tell me how often to change this or wash it in order to keep it clean?

Ida Heitmann, 407 S. Cuming, Omaha 13, Neb.

A. It is usually not necessary to do this oftener than once a year. Then I would do it as a principle of cleanliness and to make sure your violet surroundings are being kept disease free. A good washing of the grits or pebbles with about one-fourth teaspoon of Optox spray added to the water should suffice in this matter.

Q. Are there any successful methods to follow with albinos in order to keep at least some of the white leaves? I have three: Wintergreen, Albino Red Head, and Wintny Night. All three have reverted to just plain green foliage. I have tried various soils, watering, feeding and light, but it makes no difference. Some say fertilize, some disagree, so I have tried with two specimens of each, with no better results. I do not have fluorescent lights, but the variegateds are in bright light all day. Our house sits in the middle of ninety-nine feet, so we have all the sunshine going. In all windows except the living room I have glass curtains between the plants and the glare. In the living room, from the middle of February through July, when the sun is extremely bright, I place plain white tissue paper on the glass. The living room windows face west.

Any suggestions or help on how to keep the foliage white will be greatly appreciated.
Mrs. R. J. Hainstock, 728 Catherine St., Fort William, Ont., Canada

A. Readers, your suggestions on how to keep the foliage on these varieties white, will be most welcome.

Q. I recently became a member, have had a small collection for a number of years, and have always prided myself on the health of my plants.

I now seem to have a problem with the violet White Madonna. A friend gave me a small one about a year ago. I planted it in my own soil, as I buy all my soil from Windover in Indiana. It is sterilized. In no time at all it began to bloom, but I didn't get the double rose like blossoms I expected, but semidouble. Then the little petals next to the anthers all turned brown about as soon as the blossoms opened.

The rest of the plant was normal, with the exception that once in a while I would notice a line across one of the leaves that looked like a streak of dried sap. This did not seem to interfere with the apparent health of the plant.

After an accident that kept me hospitalized from April 22 to July 7, during which time a friend took care of my plants, I was pleased with the good job she did, although some of the plants were not blooming. I gave White Madonna a more sunny location and it soon started to bloom, and with not as much brown showing as before. I noticed one leaf with the streak on it. Now one after another of the healthy leaves suddenly turn soft and touch the edge of the pot. There is no discoloration of any kind. I water sparingly as that also causes the lower leaves to soften and brown.

Mary MacMillan, 4817 North Paulina St., Chicago 40, Illinois

A. Readers, please let us have your experiences on this one. end



AFRICAN VIOLET growers know how important it is to prevent soft, fleshy leaves from touching rim of pot. Leaf Cuffs are the answer! Made of durable, washable vinyl, designed to fit standard 3", 4" and 5" flower pots, they fit the inside top of pot with the cuff hanging over outside. Attractively designed in white, blue, green, aqua or yellow, or assorted

colors, they come 6 to a package for \$1.00, postpaid in U.S.A. State size and color please.

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WHITE PLASTIC LABELS

4 1/2"	100 for \$1.00	500 for \$4.50
Plastic Pots	25 Mottled	25 White
2"	\$1.00	\$1.00
2 1/4"	1.25	1.35
2 1/2"	1.50	1.60
3" regular or tub	1.75	2.00
3 1/2" regular or tub	2.00	2.50
4" tub	2.50	3.00
Saucers 3 3/4" per dozen		.60
Saucers 4 1/8" per dozen		.85

These prices are postpaid in U. S. A.

Do come and see our African violets when this way. We do not ship these, nor do we have a list. Always new plants at Lyke's at reasonable prices. Come see for yourself!

LYKE'S AFRICAN VIOLETS

East Bethany, N. Y., 6 Mi. S.E. of Batavia

Fresh Cut African Violet Leaves.
Old favorites, new chameers.
Surprise Collection 12 for \$1.10

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Clay Flower Pots in Color Green, red, yellow or white baked-on enamel. Following sizes only:

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LIFETIME WHITE PLASTIC POT LABELS, 4 1/2":
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THE WINDOVER CO.
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Surrounded by some of her beautiful African violets, Mrs. Thornhill enjoys her absorbing hobby and her new plant rooms which were especially built for her violets.

Violets, My Latest Hobby

Mrs. Claude W. Thornhill, Rustburg, Va.

Several years ago I read a short book by Anne Morrow Lindbergh entitled, "Gift from the Sea," and I have often thought since that violets were a rather special gift to me. The members of my family have always been known for the alacrity with which they jump on the hobby bandwagon, and my hobbies through the years have been many and varied. Most of these hobbies have grown to be more than just hobbies alone. First, the seven old hens which my husband brought home in a dilapidated crate grew into a thriving poultry business which finally forced us to move from the city to a rural area and which was our way of life for over thirty years. Interest in flowers grew into formal gardens, garden club work, arranging, judging, and all of the other absorbing facets of a love for flowers. One collie dog grew into a kennel; one African violet plant received as a gift just grew and grew until there wasn't enough room for them anywhere in the old house. Since I had retired from the poultry business in the meantime, the next logical step was our decision to build in new quarters five miles away where our violets and dogs could have more space.

I am quite sure that no contractor ever heard so much talk about large windows and plenty of light (for the violets) and a warm, dry basement (occasionally used as a maternity ward for a collie). When the big move actually began, the family heirlooms such as Grandmother's dining room table and Great-aunt Reva's desk were entrusted to moving vans and their competent help. The violets we moved ourselves, **stacking**

rack after rack of plants into the station wagon and making four trips a day for four days to the new location. Bless their hearts, they never knew they were moved; there were no casualties with the exception of two aching backs. All of my requirements for violet raising have been beautifully met. I have two 16' x 20' rooms with a northeastern exposure, both with concrete floors, for my violets. The upper room has twelve large windows and is used mostly for large blooming plants and show plants. The basement violet room is equipped with fluorescent lights and is used mainly for growing and rooting small plants. Both plant rooms at the moment are comfortably filled with violets, a fact that any true violet addict will understand, since I write for any new variety that strikes my fancy and am constitutionally unable to resist rooting a leaf here and there.

We chose oil duct heat because we felt it was particularly well suited to the needs of the plants and to our local climate. There are ducts in each room to keep an even temperature; with the concrete floors I can spill all of the water I like in order to raise the humidity. The basement room is much cooler, and in the winter the temperature rarely rises over 64° there, with a maximum of 68° in the summer. Only in the warmest summer weather do I use any protection from the sun in the upper room, and then for just a few hours in the early morning. With so many plants, watering is done from the top altogether.

Somewhere along the line in late fall I picked up cyclamen mite at a time when I had several

orders for rooted cuttings on the way. This was my first real experience with this tragedy, and I decided to use Malathion as a spray and as a dip. As each order came in, the rooted cuttings were sprayed for mite with no harmful effects either at that time or on successive treatments. At this writing they are beginning to bud and bloom, and I am delighted to know that they can be treated with Malathion with no necessity for isolating new arrivals. Later, for my peace of mind, I treated with sodium selenate, using the Extra Dilute Solution. I feel that I have the mite situation under control now and intend to stay on guard against mites.

I have been interested in soils for almost as long as I have had violets and have been doing a lot of experimenting along this line. I sent samples to our state college for analysis and try to maintain a pH of around 6.9. Our two acres of land is roughly 1.8 acres of the loveliest leaf mold any violet grower could want — oak and dogwood — rich and well rotted.

I mix about two bushels at a time and until last year sterilized it on my electric stove. However, in a reverse of progress in our modern age, I have acquired an ancient Home Comfort cook stove which reposes in the basement, and I do all of my sterilizing of soil and pots there. This stove has a thermometer on the door, and I use also a meat thermometer inside to control the temperature to 180° to 200° for sterilizing soil. On one occasion when I had finished sterilizing and had a nice hot fire going, I put biscuits in the oven and sweet potatoes on to cook in their jackets. That stove, true to its name, has been a real comfort to me.

Membership in the First African Violet Society of Lynchburg and taking part in its annual shows provide an additional outlet for the enjoyment of an especially nice hobby. end

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SOIL

The farmer is constantly warned that leaching rains and abundant crops take plant food from the soil, and these foods must be supplied constantly and systematically. But do we realize that the growers of house plants may need the same warning? Luxuriant plants and constant watering withdraw supplies of food, and the soil will be partially exhausted. Soil tests provide the farmer with knowledge of his needs, but whether the window gardener is able to make his own tests or not, there are ways that help to replace nutrients in the proper balance.

The first requisite is to have some idea of the nature of soil. Simply defined, soil is composed of disintegrated rocks, vegetation and animal matter. That makes it a very complex substance, and most important is the fact that it has taken centuries of time to produce a good soil.

Although soil varies widely, it is composed of sand, silt, clay and organic matter. The silt and sand usually carry the minerals, such as phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, and many more trace minerals. The organic matter results from the decomposition of vegetable and animal matter and is of vital importance because it is the home of millions of bacteria that are so important to plant life. Good soil should contain about five percent organic matter.

The major plant foods may be supplied by commercial fertilizers. Nitrogen provides rich green color. Phosphorus is necessary for hardy growth and root development. Potassium encourages strong roots and acts as an important balance between the other minerals. It is needed in the development of chlorophyll. Calcium forms cells in the structure of the plant and helps control acids. Magnesium allows phosphorus to become available, and is essential to the formation of chlorophyll, thereby contributing to the green quality of the leaves. These facts should help correct deficiencies in the growth and appearance of plants. end

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A MEETING TOWARD GREATER UNITY

Mrs. John L. Ricker, Norwood, Pennsylvania

Eighty-five members of five African Violet Societies of suburban Philadelphia, — Ambler, Brookline, Crusader, Philadelphia and Springfield — met for the first time at a luncheon held in Philadelphia on March 7th. The chairman, Mrs. Norman Bullock, president of the Philadelphia society, had planned the meeting so that we could meet all the members of the five clubs and form a closer bond of friendship among the local societies.

The program consisted of short talks by the members who organized the five African violet societies: Mrs. Carolinne Pierson of Ambler; Mrs. Milton McHenry of Brookline; Mrs. John L. Ricker of Crusader; Miss Czarina Hall of Philadelphia, and Mrs. Leonard Becker of Springfield. The organizers gave an outline of their society's progress through the years, and their programs. This was very informative and will help each society to improve its programs. Besides these speeches, Mr. Niki Nanni of Lambertville, New Jersey, gave a lecture and demonstration of violets used in arrangements.



This friendly get-together of the five African Violet Clubs of suburban Philadelphia was most enjoyable.

For decorative purposes, each society donated violets, and these were used for table decorations and for door prizes. Each member received a favor consisting of a plastic pot, a bag of soil, and a violet leaf to be grown for next year's combined meeting.

Our chairman kept the meeting informal and lively with her witty remarks. She high-pressed us with her enthusiasm to organize more African violet societies, to grow more violets, and to aim for a bigger combined meeting in 1960. end

AN ADDITIONAL REMARK ON THE SCARLET EPISCIAS

A. J. M. Leeuwenberg, Botanical Museum, State University, Utrecht, Netherlands

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During a study of the Gesneriaceae of the Guianas, the specimens upon which Martius based his description of the genus *Episcia* were compared with undetermined specimens from British and French Guiana and with material of *Episcia fulgida* from cultivation. When H. E. Moore visited Utrecht in September, 1956, we examined the material together and agreed that the plants cultivated as *Episcia fulgida* should be given the earlier name of Martius as follows:

Episcia reptans Martius, *Nova Genera et Species Plantarum* 3: 41, t. 217 (1829). *E. fulgida* (Linden) Hooker f. in *Botanical Magazine* 100: t. 6136 (1874); Moore in *Baileya* 2: 75 (1954), who gives more extensive synonymy. *Cyrtodeira fulgida* Linden, *Catalogue* 90: 5 (1873); Andre', *Illustration Horticole* 20: 107, pl. 131 (1873).

Martius started his genus *Episcia* with two species: *E. decumbens* and *E. reptans*. *Episcia reptans* has the habit of *Episcia sensu stricto*

according to the traditional concept of the genus. *Episcia decumbens*, which is related to *Nautilocalyx mimuloides* (Bentham) Morton, has no stolons. Therefore, I propose to regard *E. reptans* as type-species of the genus.

During my studies of *Episcia* I could not find any difference between *E. reptans* and *E. fulgida*. Both have leaves with creamy-colored nerves which could also be observed on the specimens of Martius', who stated "folia . . . , obscure viridia, ad nervum medium carnosiusculum inferne prominentem albo-iridita." In his figures the sepals are entire, but on his specimens they are serrate as they are on Williams' specimen depicted by Hooker in the *Botanical Magazine*. The shape and the size of the corolla are also the same. The same is true for the stamens, ovary, style, and disk. The size of the leaves varies so much that it cannot serve as a differential character. Martius' specimens have stolons with young plants, which also appear on Hooker's plate. It is likely that the colors of the plates, present in

Continued first column next page

HOW TO CHECK YOUR THERMOMETERS

Reprinted from Under Glass with permission

Thermometers, like anything else, must be checked for accuracy once in a while. Here is one way of doing it. Collect all of them before the heating season begins, and place them in ice water containing ice or set them in crushed ice. Melting ice made from pure water (such as rain water) is always at a temperature of approximately 32°F. If water is hard or chlorinated or has some other chemical, the freezing point will be lowered. If you leave the thermometers in the water a few minutes and then read each one, you will be able to note any variation from 32°. Knowing how many degrees to add or subtract from an inaccurate thermometer reading makes it possible to use the thermometer to determine the exact temperature. Simply note on the thermometer the exact number of degrees it varies from normal, plus or minus.

When you hang your thermometers in the greenhouse again, place them in a three-sided box so that they will always be shaded from the sun. There is considerable variation in different parts of a greenhouse so place each thermometer in a location that is average for that particular part of the greenhouse. It is often necessary to try several locations before choosing the best place for the thermometer. end

Continued from preceding page

some copies of Martius' book, have been added later, because those of the leaves of the present species do not agree with his description. I propose to take up Linden's figure (Illustration Horticole 20: pl. 131 (1873) as type of *Cyrtodeira fulgida*, because no type specimen was preserved. This figure, his description in the Catalogue No. 90, and that of Andre' (1873) completely agree with those of Hooker.

The species occurs in Colombia, North Brazil (Amazonas, Minas Gerais, and Rio Branco), British and French Guiana.

Most important of the examined specimens: Lectotype: Brazil, Japura, Martius 3091 (M). Paratypes: Brazil, Japura, Martius s. n., herb. 93 (M); Rio Negro, Martius s. n., herb. 95 (M) and herb. 96 (M).

Others: Williams, cultivated in the Kew Gardens (K).

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2½"	25/\$1.25	50/\$2.25	100/\$ 4.00
3 "	25/\$1.50	50/\$2.75	100/\$ 5.25
3½"	25/\$1.75	50/\$3.25	100/\$ 6.00
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Utility colors are marbled and may vary from time to time. Grey, greens or mottled shades. We have no control over, nor can we guarantee any specific colors on these.

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4 "	25/\$3.00	50/\$5.50	100/\$10.00

These are in white, yellow, red, green.

QUADRA TRAYS

Mix or Match your Quadra Trays with your Quadra Pots. These come in two sizes only and are so designed to fit as a cover for dry bulbs or seeds, as well as being used for a saucer.

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4 "	25/\$1.75	50/\$3.25	100/\$ 6.00

Colors — black, white, red, green, yellow.

ROUND POTS — UTILITY COLORS

2 "	25/\$1.00	50/\$1.75	100/\$ 3.00
2½"	25/\$1.25	50/\$2.25	100/\$ 4.00
3 "	25/\$1.35	50/\$2.50	100/\$ 4.50
3½"	25/\$1.50	50/\$2.75	100/\$ 5.25
4 "	25/\$3.00	50/\$5.50	100/\$10.00

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3½"	25/\$1.75	50/\$3.25	100/\$ 6.00
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PLASTIC SAUCERS

These are in black only and made to fit the above Round and Squatty Pots.

#2	25/\$1.00	50/\$1.75	100/\$ 3.00
This #2 size fits —	2", 2½", and 2½"	Pots.	
#3	25/\$1.25	50/\$2.25	100/\$ 4.00
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Please include 10% for postage and packing. Minimum order \$3.00 plus postage, please.

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NAME DUPLICATIONS

CHERRY ICE (Fischer) Large flowered single pink on medium green foliage.

CHERRY ICE (Richter) Single fuchsia bloom on plain foliage.

CAMEO (Fischer) Wavy foliage, delicate peach pink double bloom.

CAMEO (Naomi) Very large, slightly fringed peach pink single bloom on plain foliage.

DRESDEN DREAM (Vallin) Deep pink fringed blossom on lovely deep green, wavy foliage.

DRESDEN DREAM (Granger) Fringed pink, wavy, dark girl foliage.

LOVELY (Lyon) Star shaped single white with pink center, sometimes the entire blossom is all pale pink.

LOVELY (Frathe) Royal purple double blossom with a red edge, well shaped foliage.

MARDI GRAS (Brewer) Dark green girl foliage with deep wine lining. Blossoms rose lavender with white backs.

MARDI GRAS (Frathe) Double blossoms with shades of red and wine. Red-backed pointed foliage.

PORTRAIT (Tonkadale) Single ruffled white blossom with blue-purple center, dark foliage.

PORTRAIT (Frathe) Deep green, dark foliage with dark royal blue blossoms having splashes of pink.

ROCHESTER (Ten Hagen) Dark green Supreme foliage, large dark red blossoms.

ROCHESTER (Tonkadale) Large light pink double blooms with olive green, wavy foliage.

SEA FOAM (Fischer) Light green frilled, wavy foliage, with frilly pure white double blossoms.

SEA FOAM (Granger) Frilly blue and white full double blossoms on dark green, Holly type foliage.

WHITE GOLD (Tonkadale) Blossoms are full double white (no fringe) with shades of green all through the blossom. Leaves are very large and dark.

WHITE GOLD (Granger) Supreme, wavy foliage, with large white, fringed, single blossoms. end

V-C 13 NEMACIDE

It has been called to our attention that rumors are circulating that V-C 13 Nemacide will no longer be available after the present stock is exhausted.

The Virginia-Carolina Chemical Corporation, manufacturer of V-C 13, advises that they are not discontinuing the manufacture of V-C 13. In fact, their present plans call for producing it in the future on a larger scale than they have in the past. end

RESEARCH PROJECT ON NEMATODE AND FUNGOUS DISEASES OF AFRICAN VIOLETS

Neil C. Miller, Chairman Research Committee

(1958)

This notice was mailed to all Affiliated Chapters and Commercial Growers in January 1959. The response, up to mid-April, has been disappointing which could be interpreted as an indication that nematode and fungous disease problems are minor. This is certainly contrary to much reported experience.

Won't you please respond to this notice by sending in whatever plants you have that might have nematode or fungous diseases, and urge others to do likewise? The success of this project, the need for which has been expressed many times over many years, depends on adequate amounts of diseased material being sent in.

WHAT The research project of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. on Nematode and Fungous Diseases of African Violets at the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station is ready to receive material. The purpose of the project is two-fold:

1. To determine, by examination of diseased or affected plant material from as many sources as possible, what kinds of nematodes and what kinds of fungous diseases attack African violets.
2. To develop, if possible, practical and effective treatment procedures to cure or eliminate these diseases.

BACKGROUND Two previous research projects of the Society, that by Austin Ford at George Washington University in 1951-2 and Dr. Maurice Linford at the University of Illinois in 1953-4, developed much basic information on fungous and nematode diseases. However, neither of these projects was based on nation-wide sampling, leaving the possibility that some important diseases might not have been identified. Also, both projects were essentially fact-finding as to causative agents, neither explored curative procedures.

The goal of the New Jersey work is to obtain nation-wide sampling and to develop curative procedures.

WHAT YOU CAN DO Send in plants. Plants that have crown rot. Plants that have root-rot. Plants whose leaves rot. Plants that are wilting. Plants with unexplained leaf spots or markings. Plants that just won't grow right. Plants that have died for unexplainable reasons. In other words, any and all plants that give any indication of not being perfectly healthy.

HOW TO SEND THE PLANTS If you do not have experience in shipping plants in pots it will generally be better to remove the plants from the pots. Also it will frequently be better to remove a major portion of soil from the roots and send

the plant and soil separately wrapped but with the soil identified as to the plant from which it was taken. Wrap each plant individually. If you have only one suspicious plant, send it; if you have many plants with different kinds of troubles, send several (up to twenty) showing each type of difficulty. Wrap the package securely, remember that the better the condition the material is received, the sooner some information can be obtained from it. Take proper regard for probable freezing or excessively hot conditions during time of transit. Send by parcel post or prepaid express to:

Dr. Martin T. Hutchinson
African Violet Research Project
Department of Entomology
New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station
New Brunswick, New Jersey

A letter to Dr. Hutchinson explaining the plant difficulty and development of symptoms will aid in the examination, but is not necessary.

HOW LONG? It is anticipated that up to a year will be required to secure adequate sampling of all diseases from all portions of the country. So if you have no diseased plants now, retain this notice so you will have information as to where to send plants should disease or trouble appear in the coming months.

REPORTS A report will be prepared at the conclusion of the project. It will be impossible during the early months for the Station to engage in correspondence concerning material sent in. Later, when a sufficient back-log of information has been obtained, it may be possible to engage in correspondence and to give identification of disease-causing organisms found.

Attempts will be made to keep all information confidential, so that the origin of diseased plants is not disclosed, but neither the Station nor the Society assumes any liability in this regard.

end

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Vickey Ann, our new light double pink with oak leaf foliage. Can Can Belle, slightly frilled medium blue flowers with very beautiful ruffled leaves. \$1.50 each or \$2.75 for both. Please add 50¢ for packing and mailing. Catalog free.

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New releases — GUNSMOKE — SUNMAIDEN — RUFFLED ROYALTY — PRAIRIE SHADOWS — MOUNTAIN STORM — ELUSIVE GOLD as well as newest releases from Kahler Gardens, Vallin, Haga, Dr. Reed, Granger, Lyndon, Lyon, Arndt's Garden, Caravans, etc. Write for listings.

MRS. RALPH WILEY

114 S. Ferry Street Ottumwa, Iowa

Colored photographs of the illustrations show the color of these African violets as a medium shade of purple.

— Editor



Points of interest in these pictures of a section and side wall of Mr. Priester's greenhouse in Frankfurt, Germany are: the uniformity in the size of his African violets, the large size of the blossoms, the generous amount of bloom which makes each individual plant suggest a beautiful bouquet and the equal spacing between the rows of plants.

IN A GERMAN GREENHOUSE

Karl Priester, Frankfurt am Main, Germany

The African violets shown in the above pictures of my greenhouse are named "Stucky's Triumph," and were originated by a hybridizer who lives near Zurich, Switzerland.

The greenhouse is twenty-four feet wide, sixty-five feet long and twelve feet high, with windows that open on the sides and also on top. The temperature in the greenhouse, and also under the benches, is kept at sixty-eight degrees; water temperature is between fifty-four and sixty degrees; humidity is between sixty and seventy percent. The greenhouses we use for propagation are twelve feet wide.

Propagation: A mature leaf with a stem one to one and one-fourth inches long is put into a mixture of wood earth, peat and sand. It is sprayed daily with water. The leaf will have good roots after one month, then it is put right into a bench in the greenhouse. The leaves are not placed too closely together, which gives the young plants room to develop. After another

four weeks, the young plants are large enough to separate and transplant. Each little plant is put into a three inch pot, in a mixture of wood earth, manure, peat and a little sand. As soon as the first buds appear, they are taken off so that the strength will go into the plant. When the plant has developed a good root system, it is put into a four inch pot. The buds are taken off until the suckers start to bud, then the plants get trimmed to form so that the buds have enough room to come to the top and open up.

Feeding: No chemical fertilizer is used, but a very weak solution of pigeon manure is given at every watering.

Last year was the first time I displayed Saintpaulias at the Chelsea Show in London, England. A colleague of mine also displayed Saintpaulias there, but inasmuch as the majority of his were damaged in the long transport, he could only show twelve plants. end

VACATION-VIOLETS GROWN IN YARD

Ruth A. Lof, Storrs, Connecticut

In June last summer I was really looking forward to a vacation — it was going to be so pleasant to have a respite from all the duties and routine of the past year. Even looking after my demanding violets had become a chore. One stumbling block in the way of a vacation was the care of my African violets during my absence: I just should not leave so much for my good and most willing neighbor.

At that time in addition to my regular collection I had more young plants than ever; also, I was hanging onto a few old plants that had seen better days — the leaves were drooped around the pots, most likely with crown rot; I had been just too busy to examine them. I didn't want to throw them away, and neither should I expect my neighbor to nurse them.

It dawned on me that I should make use of the barren north side of our house, so with the help of my husband and young son we built a retaining wall one foot high across the back of the house about four feet out from the foundation. Then we filled in the space with rotted leaves from our compost pile which was started about five years ago, and is made up mostly of oak and maple leaves. The exposure seemed just right with early morning sun and late afternoon sun filtered through the trees.

I immediately got busy "getting rid" of about fifteen pots full of plants in various stages of health and development. Any leaves that broke off in the process were given at least a small chance for life by being "poked," petiole down, into the leaf mold. After completion of this I felt quite relieved; at last my conscience wouldn't prick me for cold-bloodedly throwing away those poor struggling plants. Also, the young plants that needed separating were given plenty of space. At least all the plants had a chance, and would not bother anyone for the summer. No fertilizer was added; neither did I water them after the first planting. They were left entirely with nature which apparently was just right for my African violets this summer.

The results were a great surprise to me, especially when I started to pot the plants around September 9th after one of the Episcias had been nipped with the frost.

The older plants, some of which were so shabby when I set them out, had grown tremendously and were covered with blossoms! (I had a difficult time potting these plants, because the root section seemed to be as large as the plant!) All the little seedlings had grown to sizeable plants, and they too had many buds which are opening now indoors. Some of the leaves I planted had already formed small plants. Even one plant which I did not like particularly and

intended to leave out, had about fifty buds and blossoms, so I had to bring it in too!

After setting out fifteen pots full of plants, I took in thirty, some of which had two or more to a pot. (I see this won't be the year to carry out my threat to reduce the number of my plants.)

Now if they all survive, and this year, no doubt, a vacation will be in order once again, I'll just have to enlarge my outdoor African violet garden.

THERE IS ONLY ONE

SPONGE-ROK*

Trade Mark Registered U. S. Patent Office



SEED GERMINATION & CUTTINGS

Pure Sponge-Rok or mixed $\frac{1}{2}$ with peat moss is used extensively by commercial growers. Reusable time and again. Will not absorb an over-abundance of water.

PLANTERS & POT PLANTS

Used in combination with soil or organic materials for plants growing in containers. Found in most private label planter mixes.

SOIL CONDITIONING

Used with soil around root ball when planting and mixed in lawn and garden soils to permanently improve soil structure.

Samples and Prices on Request

SPONGE-ROK SALES

Dealer Inquiries Invited.

2112 Hubbard Ave.

Middleton, Wis.

* A product of Paramount Perlite Co.



YOU, TOO, CAN GROW PRIZE-WINNING AFRICAN VIOLETS

For two years the prize-winning blossoms at the National African Violet Show have been grown with Plant Marvel . . . the scientifically balanced 100% water-soluble plant food. It supplies the entire root system with the natural, concentrated food elements needed for rapid, healthy growth and bloom. Very easy and economical to use . . . a 35¢ package makes 68 quarts, 80¢ package makes 125 gals., \$1.35 package makes 250 gals. of rich liquid food. **FREE SAMPLE:** Write for free sample and a copy of our African Violet folder.

PLANT MARVEL

"Feed as you water"

Dept. AV-15, 622 West 119th Street, Chicago 28, Ill.

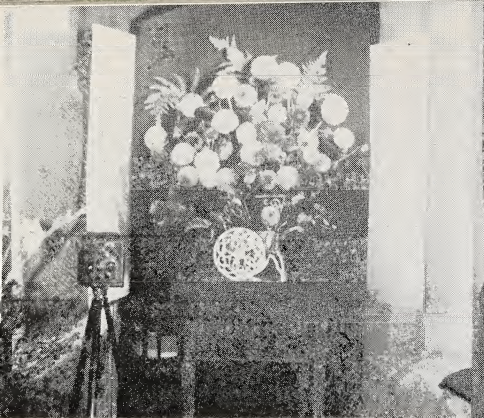


PHOTO FUN

E. Monica Mapplethorpe, Boston, Lincs., England

Have you ever thought of taking a close-up photograph of your favourite African violet, and decided it would cost too much for special equipment?

For a long time I wanted to, but was told by photographers it would require an expensive camera with still more expensive close-up lens. So, instead of buying a new camera, as I already have two, I decided to experiment.

I asked my optician for a fourteen inch testing lens and a ten and one-half inch lens. These he gave me, wishing me luck!

I cut a piece of wood fourteen inches long, and onto this I put a spirit level.

I am using an Agfa box camera which takes a two and one-half by three and one-half inch negative. My Ilford camera, which is a more expensive one, only takes two and one-quarter by two and one-quarter inch negative, but enlarging is more difficult to get a square picture, postcard size.

If your camera has a focusing range from four feet to infinity, set it to infinity, f13, speed B, time two seconds. If it is a box, there is nothing to set.

Attach the optician's lens with a bit of sticking tape firmly over the lens, put the camera on a firm stand or tripod, and with spirit level and stick, measure from the centre of the lens to the centre of your object. I measure the object with a ruler to get the centre.

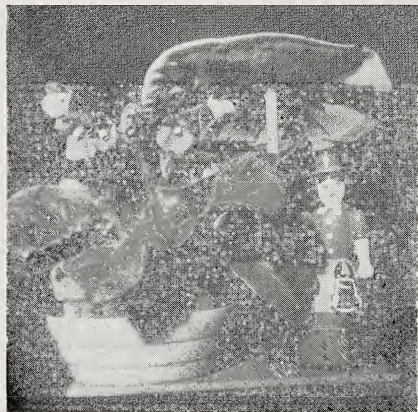
I use one photo flood bulb on a six foot screen right behind me, with the light shining downwards on the object.

Until recently I took all my photographs on my kitchen table against a piece of cardboard propped up against my knitting machine, but my kitten got too curious and wanted to be in on every photograph, so now I have draped a six foot portion of a screen, in the corner of my

Above left, taken at six feet, shows where I take my photographs now. Note small shelf on side of plant stand holding ruler, fourteen inch piece of wood and spirit level. Shelf at foot of stand holds flash equipment for both cameras. Photo flood lamp is on a screen top at the right of the photo. Ilford camera on tripod takes two and one-quarter by two and one-quarter prints. Extreme left, leaning against the wall, is a six foot stick to measure the feet for distant pictures.

A small flower arrangement made with dried African violet blossoms and dried golden rod. A drop of glue on the end of a thin piece of wire, holds the violet blossom. Above right.

Below, this photograph was taken at a distance of 14", using an ordinary box camera with an optician's lens fixed to the camera lens.



sitting room, with black and have a piece of white cardboard two feet by one foot on each side to reflect the light. Now the corner is always ready.

If you are taking pictures with glass, you require two photo floods, one on each side. It can be a bit tricky, firstly the reflection of the lamp on the glass, and secondly, working shadowing. So, just place the lamps further away from you until the picture is clear of reflection and shadow.

I make my own Christmas cards, of my favourite close-up photographs, which I colour because I feel it makes them so much more interesting and personal.

I find this method so fascinating that I do no end of it. I also develop, print and enlarge my own photographs, and find that a close-up enlarges to a beautiful picture.

end

EXCITING NEW COLLECTION OF WESTERN VARIETIES

(To be released September 1st)

BUTTERFLY SERIES: Lovely frilled blooms like butterflies.

FIRST SNOW: Huge, very fringed pure white, 20-25 blooms per stalk.

JEWELLED BEAUTY: Very ruffled, lt. green fol. Large frilled white, bloom edged in frothy blue-lavender.

BOLD PIRATE: Huge dbl. blue tipped, purple-wine. Wide, strap leaves.

MAGIC CARPET: Fuzzy, big leaves that twist at the base. Unique pattern.

CURLETTE RUBY CHARM: Vivid ruby wine. Deep wine blotches at the center. Very heavy bloomer.

We are sorry so many have had to wait for Michael O'Shea, Enchanted, and the other lovelies we listed for spring. There will be more ready this fall.

Send stamp for listing ready August 1st.

ARNDT'S FLORAL GARDEN

Route 2, Box 336

Troutdale, Oregon

WATERING LEAF CUTTINGS

Although leaf cuttings may be started in jars of water, when they are started in a rooting medium such as peat and vermiculite (proper drainage being provided), care must be taken to see that they do not have too much water, even though they will tolerate more water than either young or mature plants.

It is much safer to keep the rooting medium just on the moist side and never soggy wet. Also, keep a close check to see that it does not dry out too much, because this could damage the leaves.

end

FRESH CUT LEAVES

Racy Red
Delicate
Star Holly
Sonja Dbl.
Blaze
Iceberg
Fifi
Lucky Streak
Tea Rose
Wedgewood
Charm Song
Doris
Luna
Witchcraft
Enchanted

Angel Child
Malline
Honey Boquet
3-D
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Aletha Martin
Dorothy Jean
Purple & Gold
Double Rosy Ruffles
Fancy
Hot Tomato
Cultured Pearl
Oriental Music
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Hundreds of other varieties. List on request. State and Federal certified. Organic Supplies, Vitaloam, Elk-Organic, Plastic Pots. Visitors Welcome.

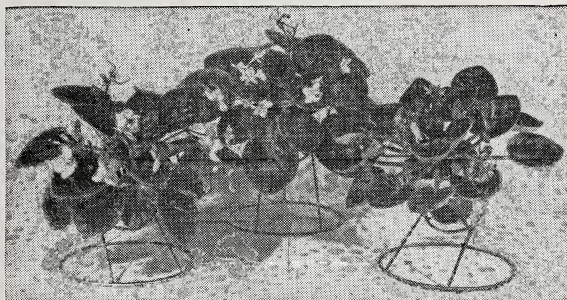
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DORIS'

AFRICAN VIOLET CORNER

308 Franklin Street Bloomfield, N. J.

IDEAL PLANT STANDS



Each stand will take following pot sizes

Standard 2½"

Standard & squatty 3"

Standard & squatty 4"

2 heights . . . 4" & 6"

IDEAL FOR VIOLET SHOWS

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IDEAL FOR COMMERCIAL DISPLAYS

PRICE — 6 FOR \$5.00 POSTPAID

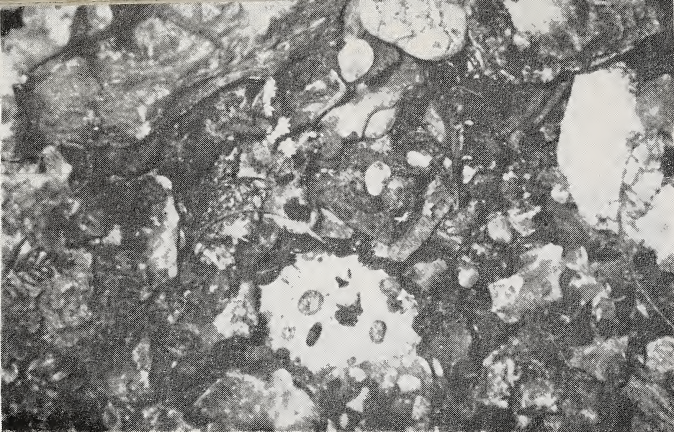
INQUIRE FOR PRICE ON LARGER QUANTITIES TO CLUBS AND RESALE

RICHARDS VIOLET GARDENS

95 Meadowbrook Road

Visitors Welcome

Williamsville 21, N. Y.



Looking down into the grotto the little pool with its water, crystal clear, and sandy bottom covered with shells makes an interesting picture.

My Grotto

Joy Hutson, Luton, Beds., England

In the December 1958 issue of the African Violet Magazine, I told you of the small grotto I had made. Many of you have been interested enough to want to see a picture of it so that you can make one for yourselves.

The pictures were taken in April of this year, by flash, as the grotto is situated in a sunless corner. At the time of taking these pictures the grotto looked enchanting, with the small ferns just starting into growth and the miniature bulbs in bloom. African violets will be planted straight from their two inch pots as soon as summer arrives.

Looking at the top row of rocks you will see a dark, narrow strand of wool hanging down from the centre round stone. A tiny pink Alpine

plant is growing to the right of it. The wool is fed by a quart tin can filled with water and hung on a hook at the back of the trellis.

Four strands of grey wool, each about twenty-seven inches long, were placed on the bottom of the can and were held down by a stone. The ends were then pushed through different holes in the trellis and placed between the crevices in the rocks. The water drips slowly down the rocks and into the pool, feeding the ferns and plants as it trickles down.

You can surround the grotto with a variety of ferns in containers, or any plant that enjoys a sunless situation, such as primroses, forget-me-nots, violets, Astilbe, and many others.

end

This photograph shows the structure of the grotto and the basic planting. African violets will be growing here when the weather is warm enough for them to live out of doors.



SOIL RECIPE

Bess Dykeman, South Bend, Indiana

Frederick and Jacqueline Kranz, in their book "Gardening Indoors Under Lights," tell of having found what they believed was a superior potting soil, using leaf mold as the form of humus. They set about experiments to prove that a peat moss soil could be every bit as satisfactory. Here is the result of their thousands of experiments:

THE RECIPE

- 4 Cups soil
- 4 Cups peat moss
- 2 Cups vermiculite or perlite
- 6 Teaspoons whitening

SOIL

There are three types of soil from which to choose: garden loam, sand and sticky clay. A heavy clay soil is not desirable. Heavy silt loam is most desirable. As Little Mary Lou said, "When you want good dirt to make mud pies, it has to stick together but when you bend it, it should break." The Kranzs' found that this was exactly the kind they needed for their potting soil mixture. Silt loam becomes somewhat lumpy as it dries, but these lumps break up easily between the fingers. Florists, nurserymen and plant departments sell "dirt" which is generally suitable for use in this recipe.

PEAT MOSS

The authors prefer the type of peat moss which comes from West Germany as it forms shreds rather than lumps when pulverized.

VERMICULITE

No. 4, sold as plasterers' aggregate, is the type used. Be sure it is pure.

PERLITE

Plasterers' aggregate perlite is the one to ask for.

WHITING

This is a form of lime and may be purchased at paint or hardware stores. Enough whitening is mixed through the mixture to make certain it remains neutral, and thus we can eliminate the necessity of constant soil testing. Omit the whitening if you wish to grow acid-loving plants in this soil.

UTENSILS

Round-bottomed bowl or washbasin

Baking dish to hold one recipe of soil to be sterilized, or

Turkey roaster to hold one-half bushel of soil or peat moss, if large amounts are to be sterilized

Screen for sifting, made of hardware cloth tacked on a frame made of wood strips. No. 4 cloth may be used, No. 6 is better.

PROCEDURE

Measure first the soil, then peat moss, then vermiculite or perlite, and last the whitening, into bowl.

Add about one-half cup of water, enough to prevent dusting.

With fingers, mix together these materials.

With palm of hand push all through screen three or four times to ensure thorough mixing and good texture. Don't try to sift, rub and push instead. If you will screen your peat moss once beforehand, you will find this an easier job.

NOW STERILIZE

If you have not used sterilized soil and peat moss, you will want to sterilize the entire mixture now. Moisten well until water oozes up between fingers when you press your hand down on the mass. Place in a 275 degree Fahrenheit oven and bake for one hour. Allow to dry out until surface is light in color and mass cracks. Screen again. Soil will be light and fluffy. You may use it now. It isn't practical to do large amounts at a time. The Kranzs' strongly advise mixing as you need it. One may, however, sterilize one-half bushel each of soil and peat moss and keep it on hand, dry, until needed. Screen after it is dry and store off ground.

FERTILIZING

One gallon of water

One level teaspoon Ra-Pid-Gro (or a similar product)

One level teaspoon Gilbert's Nutrient Formula (or a similar product). This will supply trace elements.

Stir one minute and feed once each month or two. Give same amount of fertilizer as of water in a single day. Feed only when soil is moist. end

AFRICAN VIOLET SEED

Mixture A —
more than 50 single flowered varieties —
300 seeds — \$1.00

Mixture B —
from varieties having "girl type" foliage —
150 seeds — \$1.00

Mixture C —
from single flowered varieties crossed with double
flowered varieties —
150 seeds — \$2.00

Mixture D —
from pink flowered varieties crossed with other
pink or white varieties —
150 seeds — \$2.00

Mixture FM —
Our best mixture, 300 seeds \$3.00 of fine hybrids,
mixed colors, fringettes.
Special Seed Starting tray containing excellent growing
media designed for a "no failure" \$1.00 plus 25¢
for postage.

FOREST MILL

AFRICAN VIOLET SEED

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Indianapolis, Ind.

YOUR LIBRARY

Maisie Yakié, Librarian, P. O. Box 674,

Port Arthur, Texas

As I have said before, it is always a pleasure to be able to start this column with a few thank you notes. This time I wish to thank two lovely ladies for gifts of slides to the Library: Mrs. Fred Hager, Seattle, Washington; and Mrs. Samuel Greenfield, Galesburg, Illinois. The slides they so graciously sent to me will be incorporated in the new slide groups now in preparation. I would also like to say thank you to those of you (and I am happy that there are many in this group) who write to tell me that you find this column of interest and help.

It has been quite a while since I have listed the slide programs and the program packets from the Library, so perhaps this would be a good time to do so. Listed below are the slide programs now available:

Carter's Greenhouses
Tinari Greenhouses
Saintpaulias in Review
Let's Visit Alma Wright
Violet Visiting
The Violet Beautiful
Insects, Diseases, Pests and Propagation (slides only)
Insects, Diseases, Pests and Propagation (written material and slides)
Chicago Convention 1952
Nashville Convention 1953
St. Louis Convention 1954
Pittsburgh Convention 1955
Minneapolis Convention 1956
Kansas City Show 1956
What's New
North of the Border
Kansas City Show 1957
Arrangements Featuring African Violets and African Violets in Unusual Containers
Potpourri
Magic Carpet
Cincinnati Convention
Omaha — Beacon of the Midwest
Canadian Visit
Kansas City Show 1958
Double Header
Beauties by Fischer
Land of Enchantment
Rochester Convention
Kissing Cousins (gesneriads)
Violets in the Flower City (arrangements from the Rochester Show)
Go West, Young Man
Could You Tell Me, Please
Buyer's Guide 1958

Below are listed the Program Packets now available. Program Packets are composed of typed material suggesting ways to carry out a program on a certain subject, or they may be

composed of magazine clippings on a particular topic, etc. They are, in a few cases, actually written lectures; but usually they are designed to help guide and assist rather than to do the entire program for you.

1. Speaking of Operations; Montague Free
2. Most Important Requirements for Good Growing of African Violets
3. Grooming African Violets for Show and Judging
4. Leaf Rooting in Many Ways
5. Separating and Planting Babies
6. Soil and Pot Preparation
7. When to Pot Violets, Size and Watering Care
8. How to Groom and Fertilize
9. How to Make Violets Bloom
10. Why Violets Need Humidity and How to Give It to Them
11. When to Remove Suckers on Violets
12. How to Spray for Diseases and Bugs
13. Seedlings and Mutations; Bob Anderson, Tonkadale Greenhouses
14. Earhart Plant Research Laboratory
15. African Violet Culture and Miscellaneous
16. Dried Arrangements
17. African Violet Progress
18. Colchicine
19. Fertilizers
20. Propagation
21. Gesneriads
22. Gloxinias
23. Our Enemies — Pests and Diseases
24. Plants Under Lights
25. African Violet Show Aids (schedules, etc.)
26. Begonias
27. Geraniums
28. Orchids

Also, we have a wonderful collection of Year Books from various clubs all across the country which are just full of good ideas for club programs.

Please remember that the cost of all of this material, on a rental basis, is \$1.00 (per item) to Affiliated Chapters. For Kaleidoscope 1958 and 1959 the fee is \$1.00 to individual Society members, but to others it is \$5.00. This fee should be sent at the time requests for reservations are made. Please remember that I need the following information in each letter regarding reservation of program material:

Club Name

Meeting Dates (it speeds my work if you will say March 3 or August 17 and so forth rather than the fourth Monday or the second Tuesday)

Slide Program Suggestions (please give three as alternates)

The Mailing Fee

If all of this is given to me with the first request for reservation, it will greatly help the Library to better serve you.

Continued next page

BE CAREFUL

Marie Dannemiller, Barberton, Ohio

I found mite on some plants after I got home from my trip east, so I used sodium selenate (Written after the 1958 Convention — Editor) instead of throwing out the infested plants as I should have done. I had, had the selenate over eight years. Evidently it was too old and too strong, as NOW they tell me it is used in a more dilute form.

I lost nearly all of my collection simply because I used something I was not familiar with. Never again, and don't YOU do as I did and make that trip up heart-break hill. end

SULFUR DEFICIENCY

Reprinted From Horticulture Newsletter

In the foreseeable future it may become necessary to add sulfur to soils as we now add other fertilizer elements. Sulfur is an important plant food but normally it is added to the soil in sufficient quantities by rainfall which carries it down with other industrial wastes. Recent Kentucky studies show, however, that less than half as much sulfur has been deposited in recent years as in the early twenties on definite test areas. The reason given for the decrease is wider use of electricity and gas instead of coal. Only 13 pounds were deposited per acre. We still get plenty around cities.

Library continued

One last word: Please send slides properly addressed to me at my Post Office box number. I often get slides that are merely addressed to "Mrs. Jack Yakie (or Mrs. Maisie Yakie), Librarian, Port Arthur, Texas." Port Arthur is a good sized city and quite proud of its Library facilities, and therefore it is no wonder that materials addressed in this manner are promptly and efficiently delivered to the local Library and not to me. It is fortunate that I once worked in that Library and the head Librarian remains my good friend, so she laughingly calls me to pick up this mail whenever she gets it. But, properly addressed mail will help a lot!

I am quite excited about the plans I have for slides for you, and I feel sure that by the next time we get together I will have a lot of fine new ones.

Have a wonderful summer and take good care of yourselves, and of those violets! See you in September. end

RICHTER'S 1959 RELEASES

WEDGEWOOD—Luscious light blue double, with excellent black-green foliage. Simply stunning.

TEA ROSE—Something a little different! The bud is shaped like a rose bud, and opens into a fully double rose-shaped bloom. Vibrant pink, lovely tailored foliage.

CRINOLINE—Frilled pink, with darker pink eye. Beautiful frilled foliage. Very attractive.

BLAZE—Frilled red-pink, frilly foliage. Brilliant color.

FIFI—The largest of the frilled pink blooms. Soft, clear color, beautiful foliage, very dark with red reverse.

Above group \$1.25 each, rooted cuttings \$1.00 each.

ALABASTER—A really good double white, fully double, with a green tinge to the fresh blooms. Good tailored foliage.

WINTER KING—Huge pure white single, with no hint of color in the bloom. Big blooms, and lots of them.

SUNDAY MORN—Fully double pink, always loaded with big blooms.

TALISMAN—Soft, peachy-pink, and simply huge single blooms. Dark tailored foliage. A real beauty.

WITCHCRAFT—Lavender double, with splashes of deeper color through the blooms. Tailored foliage.

Above group \$1.00 each, rooted cuttings 85¢ each.

Our rooted cuttings are sure to please you.

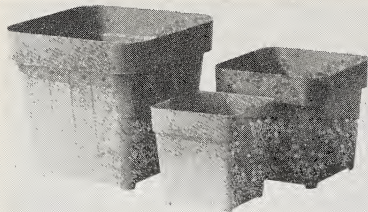
Large clumps of husky plantlets, ready to be divided. Try a trial order.

Include \$1.00 extra for postage and packing on all orders under \$10.00. Minimum order \$3.50. Orders over \$10.00 postage prepaid.

Send stamp for complete price lists.

RICHTER'S GREENHOUSE

607 Hoffman Street Hammond, Indiana



SQUARE PLASTIC FLOWER POTS

Twenty-four pots 2" square for \$1 postpaid! Hold as much soil as larger round pots but need less space for growing. Perfect for seedlings, cuttings, and rooting African violet leaves. 4 drain holes for better root growth. 50 for \$1.75; 100 for \$3.00; 2 1/4" size 24 for \$1.50; 50 for \$2.75; 100 for \$5.25. Catalog included tells low prices, unusual hard-to-find supplies. 60 illustrated pages. Write for free copy.

THE HOUSE PLANT CORNER

Box 923

Oxford, Maryland

"MY COMPOST"

Mother Nature's Way
Leaf Mold and Minerals
that are mellow with age.
6 lbs. for \$1.00, plus postage

BESS GREELEY

BOX 151

MERCER, WISCONSIN

No orders filled after September 15th.

now!

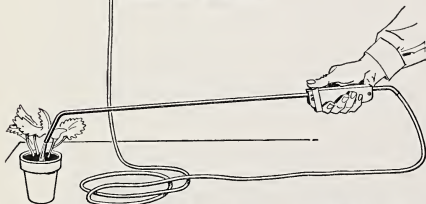
THE NEW

Tube Craft

WATERING AID



Here's the item needed by every indoor flower grower . . . an all aluminum light weight watering aid. No more lugging heavy and awkward watering cans, spilling water, or breaking leaves. Complete with 8 feet of plastic hose, all aluminum shut off valve, and 18 inch wand only \$6.95 each. Add 25 cents West of Rockies. Shipped Parcel Post Prepaid. Send check or money order TODAY. Made and guaranteed by the manufacturers of the popular FloraCart. Send for literature.



TUBE CRAFT, INC., DEPT. C

1311 West 80th Street
CLEVELAND, OHIO

MAGNESIUM

Research agronomists have found more and more reasons to believe that many soils lack magnesium, and that it is an important element in plant food. What appears as a shortage of phosphorus is really a lack of magnesium. These elements are so closely related that it seems as if plants do not use phosphorus unless enough magnesium is available.

Carefully controlled experiments with water-soluble magnesium phosphate show greater phosphorus content in crops. These crops also produced bigger yields. Magnesium itself is needed by every growing plant. It is a vital part of chlorophyll, the green material that transforms carbon dioxide, water, food and sunlight into all the needs of a growing plant. Magnesium stimulates the growth of soil bacteria, increases resistance to disease, and develops bigger yields and brighter color. It is now often referred to as the plant food that is fourth in importance after nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium.

Symptoms of the lack of magnesium are yellow or blotched leaves, small blooms lacking petals, or small, sparse fruit.

Dolomite is a source of magnesium, but it is not available unless the soil is very acid, which limits its use. There is now on the market a commercial compound of magnesium phosphate soluble in water, also a potassium carrying granite rock that would carry small amounts of magnesium and phosphorus. It would be interesting to try both of these products on African violets. end

POULETTE'S "5-STAR" SWINGING GARDEN-GATE PLANT HOLDERS



New and handsome! Each rack holds 5 plants on removable, fluted 3" trays. Accommodates pots up to 4", squatty or regular. Utilizes natural light of unused window area. A touch swings plants into room or nearer light. 40" high; 13" across bottom. Rigid steel; black semi-gloss finish. Decorative hardware and screws included.

Will show off your large and small plants while enhancing windows from inside and out. Requires less than 1" width of window frame area for mounting.

Pair \$14.95 ppd., East of the Mississippi. West of the Mississippi add \$1.00 per pair; \$2.00 for Canada. Send check or money order. No C. O. D.'s Satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded.

POULETTE WELDING CO.

Dept. AVD

Kempton, Penna.

CZECHOSLOVAKIAN VIOLETS

(The gift seed were from Richter's Greenhouse, Hammond, Indiana, and were donated to the editor for foreign distribution — Editor.)

Chrudim, January 25th, 1959

Dear African Violet Friends:

It is difficult for me to write a Czech story about Saintpaulias. However, I can tell you that yesterday all the seeds you sent were planted (according to your instructions) in good soil in a greenhouse in our town.

Saintpaulias have been well known in Czechoslovakia for many years — but only the blue variety. Here we know much about this beautiful and responsive plant, but never have we had so much to read about it as I found in the African Violet Magazine and catalogues which you sent. For the first time I saw Saintpaulias in a gardener's shop, and at some of my friends' homes as a nice blue, healthy plant. They were thriving in conditions that are very different from those described in the magazines.

Our plants are grown in good, light soil, without much watering, and not directly exposed to sunlight. We cannot give them constant temperature, special rooms, or so many chemical products as you do. Nevertheless we have had nice plants with plenty of blue blossoms for many years.

Thanks to your generosity, we have more literature about Saintpaulias than we had before. Now we can try some of your methods and have the advantage of your long experience in the cultivation of these plants, which I am sure will do well here in Czechoslovakia. This was made possible by the seeds you sent and your kindness in answering a postal card from an unknown Czech gardener and friend of good flowers. I secured your address from Horticulture Magazine for 1957, which was sent to me by a friend in Ontario, Canada. My card that was the beginning of our interesting correspondence, has resulted in the planting of the Saintpaulia seed yesterday.

It is very difficult, however, to write about Saintpaulias. We do not raise a large number of any one house plant in Czechoslovakia as we prefer a variety of plants with different leaves, colour of blooms, and height. Saintpaulias must be neighbours to various geraniums and other plants that decorate our homes. We do not yet raise plants under fluorescent lights in our homes. This sort of lighting is used only for some of the big aquariums.

During the last few years our blue Saintpaulias have attracted more and more friends and admirers. I am sure there will be many Saintpaulias in the homes of new growers when the different varieties appear, and more complete instructions for really successful planting are printed in our gardener's magazine. And I am

sure that the simple method of rooting leaf cuttings will enlarge the number of new plants everywhere.

I know you will find our conditions for Saintpaulias very simple, but what more can we do for one or two little pots of blue Saintpaulias that are healthy, grow well, and constantly bloom? We know nothing about mites or other enemies. A Saintpaulia is healthy and blooms or it begins to rot from too much watering and dies. In the case of so rapid an end, there is no possibility of finding good leaf cuttings, and it is preferable to get a new healthy plant. New colours and new methods of growing will increase the number of Saintpaulias among our house plants.

Your African Violet Magazine for June 1958 illustrated how much care you are giving to growing Saintpaulias — where there are often hundreds of plants. Yesterday, with the planting of the gift packet of seeds we trust that we will increase the kinds and types of Saintpaulias we will have in cultivation here. We shall follow your directions and in my next letter I hope I will be able to tell you that little plants of Saintpaulias are appearing. Now I send you my thanks for your kindness and generosity. Be sure, Mrs. Wright, that I will inform you about our results, and the success of our plantlets, which will remind me of our new friends on the other side of our terrestrial globe.

Sincerely yours,
V. Kristof

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May 31, 1959, Nottingham, England

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Club NEWS

MAXINE WANGBERG

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Deadline dates for Club News contributions: For September issue, June 1st; for December, September 1st; for March, December 1st; for June, March 1st.

"Neither Sleet nor Snow" could stop African violet enthusiasts from Malone and surrounding areas from organizing a new chapter. It was founded in November 1958 by the Rev. Harold H. Barnard of Malone, New York, and Mrs. Herbert Egan of North Bangor, New York.

In January of 1959 it became the **NORTH COUNTY AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY**. It also became an Affiliated Chapter of the African Violet Society of America, Inc.

An election of officers was held on January 6, 1959, with the following results: president, Mrs. Herbert Egan, North Bangor, New York; vice-president, Mrs. Stanley Sabin, Moira, New York; recording secretary, Mrs. Jesse Farley, Malone, New York; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Herbert Egan (temporary); treasurer, Mrs. Leon Russell, Malone, New York; historian, Mrs. Paul Soper, Malone, New York.

The North County African Violet Society boasts a membership of thirty charter members, and, needless to say, expects many more new members when spring arrives. The charter members of this chapter have shown what an enthusiastic chapter it is going to become, for, despite record breaking snowfalls and thirty degree below zero thermometer readings, they left their homes to participate at the general meetings, offered their suggestions at special committee meetings, paid their dues promptly, and, in general helped prove that "African Violets Are America's Most Favorite House Plant."

The **AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF YORK, PENNSYLVANIA**, met at the home of Mrs. Richard Burkhart for its Christmas meeting and installation. The following officers were installed for the coming year: president, Mrs. Richard Burkhart; vice-president, Mrs. Bruce Illgenfritz; secretary, Mrs. Woodrow Kuntz; treasurer, Mrs. Philip Filing.

Dessert meetings are held in the homes of the members, on the second Friday evening of the month.

The **TRI-CITY AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA**, held its first meeting of the year on January 19, 1959, in the Community Meeting Room. Mr. Joe Littlefield installed the following new officers: president, Mrs. Gwen Vaillant; vice-president, Mrs. Mildred Bailey; secretary, Mrs. Dorothy Clapp; treasurer, Mrs. Virginia Liniger.

Following a talk by Mr. Littlefield, cake decorated with violets was served.

At the February meeting, held in the Community Meeting Room on February 16, 1959, Mrs. Clarissa Harris of Los Angeles was the guest speaker. Plans were made for a display at the Long Beach show. Mr. D. Osborn was appointed chairman of the committee.

On April 6, 1959, the **AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF PIONEER VALLEY, SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS**, held its regular meeting after a luncheon at the Lord Jeffery Inn in Amherst, Mass. Mrs. Irwin Franklin, president, presided.

Following the meeting the members went to the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, where they visited the greenhouses. At Durfey Range, Mrs. E. Phillip Dingman, program chairman, introduced Prof. Alfred Boicourt, Director of Floriculture, who gave a talk on "New Tricks in Soil Preparation." This was followed by a question and answer period.

The **METROPOLITAN ST. LOUIS COUNCIL OF AFRICAN VIOLET CLUBS, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI**, held its semiannual general meeting January 12, 1959, in the Founders Hall at Stix, Baer and Fuller. After the general business and annual reports were completed, the nominating committee chairman, Mrs. A. D. Dates, read the names of the members selected by this committee to be the 1959 officers. This slate was accepted unanimously by the members present. The new officers are: president, Mrs. J. Lincoln of the Viking Club; vice-president, Mrs. E. Nelson of the Amethyst Club; recording secretary, Mrs. V. Kunz of the Greater St. Louis Club; corresponding secretary, Mrs. F. Hamtil of the Cinderella Club; treasurer, Mrs. H. J. Schmidt of the County Belles Club.

After the election the new officers were installed by the retiring president, Mrs. Fred Tretter. The candle ceremony was used for the installation. Mrs. W. F. Anderson, a past president, had the honor of lighting a candle for each of the new officers. In the absence of the new president, the gavel containing an orchid corsage was presented to the vice-president, Mrs. E. Nelson.

The **NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETIES** held its regular meeting in the Sacramento Garden and Art Center, McKinley Park, on January 17, 1959.

Officers for 1959 were elected and installed as follows: president, Mrs. Evahmay Plummer of the Willows African Violet Society; vice-president, Mrs. Evelyn Nienstadt of the African Violet Society of San Francisco; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Katherine Whitney of the Chico African Violet Society; recording secretary, Miss Edith Peterson of the African Violet Society of San Francisco; treasurer, Mrs. Millie Blair of the North Bay African Violet Society.

The feature of the meeting was the practice judging of twenty-seven plants by twenty-one certified African Violet Society judges. Mrs. Constance Hansen gave a brief summary on point scoring.

A special guest was Mrs. Florence Waldron of Portland, Oregon, who is actively engaged in organizing a council of African Violet Societies in Oregon and Washington.

The Willows African Violet Society served refreshments after the meeting.

Mrs. Helen Gray of the Capital City Saintpaulia Society presided over the plant sale table.

The **FIRST AFRICAN VIOLET STUDY CLUB OF ASHTABULA, OHIO**, has elected the following officers: president, Mrs. Frank Hoover; first vice-president, Mrs. Walter Cox; second vice-president, Mrs. R. F. Tisher; secretary, Mrs. John Torma; treasurer, Mrs. John Ellis.

On February 10, 1959, the club celebrated its third anniversary with a dinner. Mrs. Frank Hoover was in charge of the event. Mrs. Eugene Loudon of Painesville was guest speaker. Colored slides of Mary Suhr's plants were shown. A game, pantomiming violet names, was most interesting.

A large, tiered cake, banked with African violets and decorated in violet blooms, centered one table. All tables carried a Valentine theme, complimented by violets in each arrangement. Several charter members, not now connected with the club, were present. Fifty people were in attendance.

The November meeting of the **AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF JAMESTOWN, NEW YORK**, was held in the local Y. W. C. A., with Mrs. Fred Flory of Geneseo, New York, as guest speaker, her subject: "Care and Growth of African Violets." The club also heard a report from Mrs. Murray Smith, delegate to the New York State Convention.

In December the club held a Christmas party, at which time each member brought a gift for a child, to be given to the Salvation Army. Donations were also made to the Happiness Fund, Salvation Army, and the Boyce Edens Research Fund.

At the January meeting a discussion was held on preparing plants for entry in the forthcoming show. Also, a plant and leaf sale was conducted. In January, the show chairman with her cochairmen, were hostesses at a luncheon for the chairmen of the various show committees, at which time plans were continued for the show.

The **COUNTRYSIDE AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB OF MADISON, WISCONSIN**, held its final meeting of the year with a holiday party at Nob Hill Restaurant, on December 11, 1958. Mrs. Theodore Rosenak of the Milwaukee Club was the guest speaker.

On January 29, 1959, the following officers were installed for the coming year: president, Mrs. Robert Jennings; first vice-president, Mrs. A. C. Besserdich; second vice-president, Mrs. William Wall; corresponding secretary, Mrs. W. O. Ottum; recording secretary, Mrs. O. Poast; treasurer, Mrs. Paul Tenney.

On May 4th the club will be hostess to the Wisconsin Council of Violet Clubs, at their annual spring luncheon. An auction of plants and leaves will be held and an interesting program is planned. The River Falls, Wisconsin, Club, a new member of the council, will be welcomed.

The **HOLLY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI**, held its annual Christmas meeting on December 16, 1958, at the Embers Dining Room. Following the dinner, election of officers was held and the following officers were elected for the coming year: president, Mrs. Schneider; vice-president, Mrs. Strebe; secretary, Mrs. Felix; treasurer, Mrs. Reitz.

Activities of the **SALINE SAINTPAULIA CLUB OF MARSHALL, MISSOURI**, have been unlimited in variation.

Last September a campfire meal served at 1:00 p.m. preceded a potting party that proved beneficial as well as enjoyable. The menu consisted of frankfurters, fried potatoes and onions, with coffee from an old granite pot, all cooked over the fire in the fireplace at the shelter house and served with combination salad, pickles and donuts.

A project of growing new varieties from violet leaves purchased by the club for each member netted the treasury three times the cost when blooming plants were sold at auction at the end of the nine months period. New enthusiasm was stirred and a tour of members' homes was made to see violets growing and blooming in different exposures.

A substantial contribution is made yearly to the local Cerebral Palsy School.

A spring tea for guests is scheduled for March each year, and at Christmas a luncheon is enjoyed, with a gift exchange. This past Christmas, gifts of handmade articles were given to each member by the president, and she was presented with a silver tray in appreciation of her untiring efforts to do an act of kindness for someone.

The **AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF BELLFLOWER, CALIFORNIA**, at its November meeting installed the following officers for 1959: president, Mrs. Florence Sneed; vice-president, Mrs. Agnes Podhaski; secretary, Mrs. Faye Wills; treasurer, Mr. Clarence Wilson.

The outgoing president, Mr. Clarence Wilson, was presented with a violet lapel pin and gavel and he in turn presented to each of his officers and chairmen, a large and beautiful ceramic wick planter. Mrs. C. H. Harris of Los Angeles was installing officer.

The **RAINBOW AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF FORT WAYNE, INDIANA**, celebrated its sixth anniversary on November 19, 1958. A luncheon at the Lookout Room at Baer Field was enjoyed by the members of the society. The centerpiece of the party table was a lovely cake, and favors were small bundles of plastic markers with a marking pencil tied in colored ribbons.

Pictures from the Indiana state violet show were shown by Mrs. Quincy Jones and a report was given by Mrs. Jones and Mrs. N. T. Kelso.

The **INGLEWOOD AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA** installed new officers at the December meeting. The butterfly, traditional symbol of friendship, was the theme chosen by Mrs. Maude Gosmann, installing officer. Each officer held a large, violet-colored sequined butterfly joined by a double ribbon. After Mrs. Gosmann instructed each officer of the duties expected of her, the ribbons were cut to indicate that the new officer was now installed and "on her own."

Officers installed were: president, Mrs. Dorothy Powell; vice-president, Ellen Caldon; recording secretary, Theda Ayres; corresponding secretary, Julia Davis; treasurer, Lillian Gisbrecht.

The president's pin was presented to the retiring president, Elsie Staff, by Ellen Caldon, director at large.

A Christmas party and program, including display and discussion of table and door decorations, were also features of the meeting.

The **BALTIMORE WEST END AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND**, held its annual election of officers on January 7, 1959. The following were re-elected for the coming year: president, Mrs. Elizabeth Round; vice-president, Mrs. Ruth Fromm; secretary, Mrs. Dorothy Kern; treasurer, Mrs. Hilda Fangmeyer.

The regular meeting of the **BAY MINETTE AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, BAY MINETTE, ALABAMA**, was held at the home of Mrs. W. C. McGowan on January 8, 1959, with Mrs. Gelfair Mashburn as cohostess.

At this time the following officers were installed by Mrs. S. A. Dahlberg: president, Mrs. Earl Reemy; vice-president, Mrs. Jesse Baggett; secretary, Mrs. Gelfair Mashburn; treasurer, Mrs. Horace White.

Mrs. Allen Mott, retiring president, received a lovely epergne as a gift from the club. The other retiring officers each received a flowering plant.

During the past year, the club has had three out-of-town speakers from the Mobile African Violet Society, a colored slide program on arrangements, two additional colored slide programs, a picnic, and a Christmas party.

The **SUBURBAN SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY, ILLINOIS**, featured table settings for breakfast and luncheon at their October meeting held in the home of Mrs. Walter Hensel with Mrs. A. J. McIlwraith, cohostess. The exhibits were judged by Mrs. Clarence Wechselberger of the Rose 'Onna African Violet Club of Chicago.

AFRICAN VIOLETS

New and Old Varieties
See March 1959 Issue for List

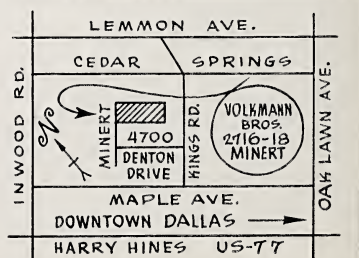
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Grooming African violets for show and judging was presented in November by Mrs. Haywood Miller and Mrs. Elmer Busse, both of Palatine. The meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Harold Klopp, with Mrs. Reginald Helgesen as hostess.

Decorating for Christmas with African violets was the theme of the society's Christmas party. December 3rd at 10:10 a.m. at the home of Mrs. George Vogeler of Palatine, a pot luck luncheon was served after the holiday entertainment program.

A Valentine party was featured for the society's February meeting at the home of Mrs. Haywood Miller, with Mrs. Harold Klopp as cohostess.

The society took part in the Chicago World Flower and Garden Show sponsored by the Chicago Horticultural Society at the International Amphitheatre March 14th to 22nd.

The **DUBONNET SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY, CLEVELAND, OHIO**, held its annual pot luck luncheon at the home of Mrs. Carrie Montgomery at 12:30 p.m. on February 3, 1959. Election of officers was held and the following were elected for the year of 1959: president, Mrs. James Taylor; vice-president, Mrs. Joseph Hrabak; secretary, Mrs. Carl Alcott; treasurer, Mrs. Paul Jasko.

The **NORTH SHORE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, HUNTINGTON, NEW YORK**, held its Christmas party on December 4, 1958. A game of Violet Charades was played and grab bag gifts were distributed.

On January 15, 1959, Mrs. Alexander Colyer of the Long Island African Violet Society was the guest speaker, her topic, "Grooming Plants for Show."

At the February 19, 1959 meeting, Mr. J. Franklin Dickerhoff gave a talk on "Growing Plants Under Fluorescent Lights."

The **PARIS AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF PARIS, TENNESSEE**, was entertained in February by Mrs. Homer Swayne at the Beautiful Paris Landing Inn overlooking Kentucky Lake: the largest man-made lake in the world. This meeting was the conclusion of seven successful years of propagation and culture of violets by the society. The program for the day was presented by Mrs. Carl Snow on "New Ways of Rooting Violets in Polyethylene Bags."

The following officers were installed for the coming year: president, Mrs. Rainey Bowden; vice-president, Mrs. Milton Brown; secretary, Mrs. Rosa Dixon; treasurer, Mrs. Ed Cantrell. Sunshine Friends were revealed during the social hour and new names were drawn for the coming year.

The **NUTMEG AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF CONNECTICUT** was organized in September, 1958, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lon Osborne in Orange, Connecticut. The first official meeting was held in October, 1958, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Adams in Huntington, Connecticut, with the following officers elected for the coming year: president, Mrs. Leon Osborne; vice-president, Mrs. Newell Mallette; secretary, Mrs. K. L. Gooch; treasurer, Mrs. John Prokop.

The group meets on the first Monday evening of each month at the Derby-Shelton Community Center in Shelton, Connecticut, and has had several interesting and educational meetings.

Mrs. Emma Goldman was the speaker at the January meeting, at which time members brought



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in double pink violets for discussion. At the February meeting, Mrs. Mildred Neilsen was the speaker and double whites were the topic of discussion.

The **GLENDALE CHAPTER OF THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC., GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA**, celebrated its seventh birthday in July with a pot luck dinner, and as their birthday project donated \$60.00 to the Boyce Edens Research Fund.

At the December meeting Mrs. William J. Stone installed the newly elected officers with a very impressive candle ceremony. The officers are: president, Mrs. H. T. Jensen; first vice-president, Miss Kate Seavey; second vice-president, Mrs. Emma Bretz; recording secretary, Mrs. Nora Manefor; corresponding secretary, Mrs. H. A. Tait; treasurer, Mrs. Berneice Gunther.

A silent auction was held at the November meeting to raise funds for the Christmas project, which is a donation of \$75.00 to the Glendale Home School for Crippled Children. A Christmas party and an exchange of gifts was held at the December meeting, with a beautiful exhibit by members of arrangements with violets in a Christmas theme.

The **AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF PARKERSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA**, elected the following officers for the coming year: president, Mrs. J. Verner Alexander; vice-president, Mrs. George Poling; secretary and treasurer, Mrs. Charles Anderson.

The **PARADISE GREEN SAINTPAULIA CLUB, STRATFORD, CONNECTICUT**, held a Christmas dinner at the home of the club's treasurer, Mrs. Andrew Chickos. A grab bag, supplied by the club, consisted of articles pertaining to the growth of African violets. The members exchanged gifts and plants with Secret Pals.

The **AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK**, installed the following officers for the year: president, Mrs. Viola Miller; vice-president, Mrs. Ruth Widstrand; secretary, Mrs. Dorothy Meister; treasurer, Miss Florence Armstrong.

The **SIOUX FALLS SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY, SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA**, opened its fall season with the following new officers: president, Mrs. E. E. Seubert; vice-president, Mrs. R. S. Harkison; secretary, Mrs. W. E. Poley; treasurer, Mrs. James Davidson.

The highlight of the meeting was a discussion on the good things one can find in the African Violet Magazine.

Programs for the coming year will include colored slides from the National Society Library and of members, and preparation for the spring show.

At the fourth annual Christmas party, the following officers were installed for the coming year for the **KENMORE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, KENMORE, NEW YORK**: president, Mrs. Herbert Paradies; vice-president, Dr. William Banfield; secretary, Mrs. William Banfield; treasurer, Mrs. Leo Peters.

The **LANSING SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY, LANSING, MICHIGAN**, began the new year with election of officers. Officers for the coming year are: president, Mrs. Ruben Johnson; vice-president, Mrs. Ernest Porter; second vice-president, Mrs. J. A. Veatch; secretary, Mrs. Maude Caufield; treasurer, Mrs. Dell Sherman.

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Left, officers of the African Violet Society of York, Pa. Left to right, Mrs. Richard Burkhart, Mrs. Woodrow Kuntz, Mrs. Harold E. Fischer, Mrs. Bruce Ilgenfritz and seated, Mrs. Philip Filing.

Right, pictured at the Judging school of the African Violet Society of Seattle, Wash. are left to right, Rose Kiegley, Ruth Carr, Artis Baylor, Vera Myers, and seated, Ruth Carey, teacher.

The club held its annual Christmas party at Evers Steak House, with the members exchanging gifts.

The CINDERELLA AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, celebrated its fourth anniversary with a birthday luncheon held at Seibert's Restaurant on January 28, 1959. Table decorations were carried out in orchid and purple, with many varieties of purple and orchid violets, both singles and doubles, placed the entire length of the table, alternating with purple candles.

Favors were small potted violets in silver baskets with each member's name on one side and the name of the violet on the other, all carried out in the color scheme.

After a delicious fried chicken luncheon, Mrs. F. J. Hamtil, the 1959 president, presided at the meeting and welcomed the special guest, Mrs. Thelma Usinger, who assisted with organizing the Cinderella Club.

Newly elected officers are: president, Mrs. F. J. Hamtil; vice-president, Mrs. F. B. Alston; recording secretary, Mrs. R. J. Connelly; corresponding secretary, Mrs. V. G. Gerak; treasurer, Miss Ann Young.

PARMA'S FIRST AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, PARMA, OHIO, assembled for the regular meeting on January 6, 1959, with their invited guests for installation service. Mrs. Kenneth Whitney installed the following officers: president, Mrs. Nelson Meese; vice-president, Mrs. Henry Lessman; secretary, Mrs. Ray James; treasurer, Mr. Glenn Cowgill.

Colored slides were shown of the club's first show. A very interesting program has been prepared for the coming year. Mr. and Mrs. James Vlk will be host to the Parma Club's second show when they present "A Shower of Violets Set to Music," October 17th and 18th, at the Garfield Floral Company, Independence, Ohio.

Three members of the RALEIGH AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA, were invited to make Madonna arrangements to be used in an article that is being written on African violets by a Garden Columnist of the Raleigh newspaper.

Mrs. O. D. Fleming's arrangement was on white Styrofoam. She used white silvered twigs; the buds were covered in pink nail polish that picked up the pink tones of the African violet — Double Pink Boy.

Mrs. Russell Wood's arrangement was made on a natural colored board. She used tall cattails with the Madonna and Baby, and the name of her African violet was Minnetonka.

Mrs. Ralph K. Ingram's arrangement was an all white one with a tall Madonna. Her greenery was brushed with white and consisted of bittersweet, tiny cones and the spray at the bottom was of dried iris seed pods. Her African violet was White Puff.

The CHICO AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, CHICO, CALIFORNIA, held its annual Christmas party in December, with a turkey dinner and gift exchange.

In January, Mrs. Roy Lowry installed the following new officers: president, Mrs. W. L. Whitney; vice-president, Mrs. Frances Tabler; secretary, Mrs. Fred Watson; treasurer, Mrs. D. W. Seay.

Mrs. Seay, outgoing president, was presented with a redwood planter by the club, in appreciation of the work she has done for the club while serving as president for the past two years.

At the January meeting of the Northern California Council of African Violet Societies held in Sacramento, Mrs. Whitney was elected corresponding secretary.

The meeting closed with a birthday cake being served to celebrate the third anniversary of the club.

The **FIRST AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF DALLAS, TEXAS**, held its fifth anniversary luncheon at the home of its founder, Mrs. J. W. Hofmann, on January 15th. Former members were invited, and special guests were officials of the Garden Center, the Dallas Council of Garden Clubs, and district officials. Cohostesses were: Mesdames E. E. Bone, C. Hugh Heard, Sarah McCoy and W. C. Mooney.

African violets were on display throughout the home; and the table decorations were carried out in purple violets, heather, red tulips, and white iris in a silver bowl. A large silver candelabra held the five red candles. A large birthday cake with candles and purple violets completed the theme.

Mrs. Vernon G. Cox, the president, gave a resume of the club's history from 1954 to 1959.

The following officers were elected for the year 1959 to 1960: president, Mrs. L. Clyde Williams; first vice-president, Mrs. J. R. Millikan; second vice-president, Mrs. John G. Bubak; third vice-president, Mrs. Vernon G. Cox; recording secretary, Mrs. J. L. Hodges; treasurer, Mrs. J. W. Hofmann; corresponding secretary, Mrs. W. C. Mooney; parliamentarian, Mrs. Thomas H. McKee; and publicity, Mrs. Edward E. Bone.

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ALABASTER—Large, heavy dbl. white, chartreuse back.

AMANDA—Bright dbl. ember pink.

BEAU BRUMMEL—Medium blue dbl. Unusual fringed foliage.

BEAUTY BRIDE—Puffy blue and white dbl.

BLUE CREPE—Crinkly fringed, dark blue dbl. Dark wavy foliage.

CANDY—Pink and white single.

CATHY ANN—Luscious, full, fringed dbl. pink.

CHAPEL BOY—Choice dark dbl.

CINDY—New dbl. peach-pink.

CONSTANCE HANSEN—Frisly dbl. blue. Gorgeous dark leaf.

COPPERTONE—Dbl. peach bicolor. Copper tips.

COTTONTAIL—New dbl. white.

CRINOLINE—Deep pink, chartreuse fringe. "Holly" leaf.

DAPPER DANDY—Tailored dbl. blue.

DOLLY—Fringed, fluorescent pink dbl.

DOROTHY GRAY—Outstanding creamy pink dbl. chartreuse back.

DBL. FUCHSIA—Shaggy, dbl. red-pink.

DBL. PINK CAMEO—Large dbl.

DBL. ROSE WING—Large, fringed dbl. white and rose.

EILEEN—Fringed, soft pink. Dark leaf.

EMBER DREAM—Vivid raspberry-red, semidouble. Dark quilted leaf.

FIFT—Fringed, deep pink "Holly."

FUCHSIA BRIDE—Vivid semidouble.

GREEN YEARS—Dbl. white and green. Gorgeous foliage.

GOOD NEWS—Giant, full dbl. pink. Deeper center.

HOLLY PINTO—Purple. Lavender sectors. "Holly" leaf.

HUGUENOT—Dark blue dbl. White edge.

JUBILEE—Unusual peach semidouble.

LEGIONAIRE—Prolific, dark blue. White edge.

LOTUS SUNTONE—Shaded hot and medium pink dbl.

MAGNOLIA DREAM—Peach semidouble. Yellow center.

MARCELLA—Dreamy peach-pink dbl. Dark serrated leaf.

MARTELLE—Exciting fringed dbl. lavender.

MASQUERADE—Shades of mauve, pink, and white with purple eye. Dark leaf.

MAYFLOWER—Nicest peach single.

MAY MELODY—Large fringed blue dbl. Dark wavy leaf.

MONTEREY—Exciting fringed peach-pink dbl.

OUR REGARDS—Exciting large dbl. pink.

PEACH CHIFFON—Shaded, large, dbl. creamy pink.

PEGGY—Exciting large dbl. lavender.

PINK AMOUR—Fringed deep, cerise. "Holly."

PINK DRIFT—Very bright dbl. pink.

PINK GENEVA—Exciting pink. White edge.

PIRATE GOLD—Chartreuse fringed purple.

PRIDE OF ROCHESTER—Lavender pink dbl. clusters.

RAMONA—Fringed dbl. pink.

RASPBERRY PINK—Clearest red-pink dbl.

RASPBERRY RED—Pinkish red dbl.

REDDERNESS—Dbl. red. Semiminature.

RED GLOW—Large, deep, cherry.

ROB ROY—Prolific, dbl. red-orchid.

ROYAL NOCTURNE—Huge, light blue, dbl.

SARNIA—Excellent dbl. blue.

SEA FOAM (GRANGER'S)—Fringed ice-blue and white dbl. Dark leaf.

SHAG—Brilliant wine clusters.

SILVER WHITESHADE—Dbl. silvery white.

SLEEPING BEAUTY—Huge dbl. wine and white.

SNO BIRD—White single. Blooms last.

SNOWDROP—Prolific dbl. white.

WEDGEWOOD—Powder-blue semidouble. Black quilted leaf.

WHITE CHIFFON—Lush dbl. fringed white.

Watch for our ad in the September issue. We expect to list very new Renegade, Gossamer Wing, Angel Child, Raspberry Sherbet, Priscilla, Organza, Alpine Rose, Irresistible and others.

NOTE: Minimum order shipped must total \$3.00, plus \$1.00 for postage and packing, on all plant and rooted-cutting orders. (50¢ on leaves) Order these "Newest Varieties" directly from this ad. Send 10¢ for Basic 1959 List for other choice varieties available.

Visit us by APPOINTMENT.

Phone Sunset 2-7359 (Milwaukee)

America's Finest

July 15, 1959

VIOLETS BY MAIL



- Buy with confidence
- New improved packing
- Years of mail order experience
- Safe arrival guaranteed

ORDER NOW --

OUR OUTSTANDING INTRODUCTIONS FOR '59

FLAIR —	excellent clear blue double showing much pollen, heavy flowering open grower with fine glossy girl foliage — a blue ribbon winner	\$2.00
COQUETTE —	very full frilled deep lavender, spectacular in full bloom, slightly waved foliage	\$2.00
MAY DANCE —	medium growing frilled double pink, wavy foliage	\$1.50
LAVENDER SPICE —	large full double with dark lavender center shading to lighter tone, glossy foliage	\$1.50
CANDY COTTON —	large flowered and strong growing pink double with great profusion of bloom, medium green foliage	\$1.50
CARIBBEAN —	giant bright blue blossoms with attractive waved foliage, an eye catcher showing much pollen	\$2.00
FRIVOLOUS LADY —	highly fringed and unusual two tone lavender, medium grower and outstanding novelty	\$1.50
JERSEY MIST —	wispy light blue flower with attractive girl foliage, open grower and very prolific bloomer	\$1.50
JERSEY BEAUTY —	deep pink fringed blossoms of unusual size and texture, fine foliage and one of our best	\$2.00
DESIREE —	very large ruffled white blossoms, medium green foliage slightly curled at edge	\$1.50
BRIDAL LACE —	semidouble fringed white flowering on strong upright stems, heavy bloomer and a proven flower show favorite	\$1.50
RINGMASTER —	slightly cupped red-lavender flowers of good size and texture with fringed white border, deep green waved foliage	\$1.50

ALSO MANY OTHER EXCITING VARIETIES

SPECIAL OFFERS

Any \$3.00 value only \$2.75

Any \$6.00 value only \$5.25

Any \$10.00 value only \$8.75

prices postpaid

EPISCAS — exotic vines akin to African violets.

Yellow (Tropical Topaz) only \$2.00

Pink (Pinkiscia) only \$1.50

Red (Acajou) only \$1.50

SPECIAL OFFER

All three for \$4.50 postpaid

All plants shipped in 2½" pots. See them in full color in our lovely free folder now available.

STARTER PLANTS

New this fall — replacing rooted cuttings. Price lists available with free color folder. Well established in 2¼" plastic pots.



Fischer's Greenhouses

DEPT. V.M. 6 LINWOOD, NEW JERSEY

Ann Schwatzler

While on Vacation Visit the "Tinari Greenhouses"

Our range is located in the picturesque valley of Bethayres, the self-service showhouse is cool and comfortable, so that you may enjoy thousands of violets in bloom.

This is the ideal time of year to order plants, when choice stock is in abundance and can be shipped safely without danger of hazardous weather conditions. Send for our complete color catalog.

Use these aids to help keep plants at their best during the hot summer months.

Delightfully designed "Violetree" 25 cup \$24.95 Ppd., 21 cup \$22.95 Ppd. Choice of antique black or silver color finish.

"Floraliter" for violets to vacation in. 9" x 24" x 12" \$16.95 Ppd.

"Ceramic Violet Jar" in a multitude of sparkling colors or black and white. \$1.75 each or two for \$4.25 Ppd.

Items listed above in photographs see our ad in the December 1958 issue of the African Violet Magazine back cover.

Antrol Houseplant Bomb — \$1.25 Ppd.

Optox Spray — 1 oz. 60¢ Ppd., 6 oz. \$1.35 Ppd.

V-C 13 — 8 oz. \$2.85 Ppd.

Kapsulate — 12 capsules 50¢ Ppd.

Proliferol Powder — Pkg. 35¢, 2 oz. Jar \$1.50 Ppd.



Dept. A. V.

Bethayres, Pennsylvania





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